

Shelby County In Wartime

1940-1944

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Shelby County In Wartime

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By the Faculty of
The School of Home Economics
Alabama College



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FOREWORD

The School of Home Economics of Alabama College has prepared this bulletin to show some of the ways in which families of Shelby County are participating in and have been affected by the war. An attempt has been made in Part I to give a kind of overview of the total participation of Shelby County in the war. It is in this setting that Shelby County families live and work. In order to understand the forces which influence their activities, to know something of the total situation in which their planning and building and living are done, one needs to know what is going on in the community in which they live. Chapter 2, which is a report of the participation of Alabama College in the war effort, is included because Alabama College is an important part of Shelby County and in many ways takes part in and influences what goes on in the county. Because the work had to be done within the limits of modest resources, important facts have no doubt been omitted.

Early in the fall of 1943, the faculty of the School of Home Economics of the College met to agree upon a general plan and to set up a tentative outline for the bulletin. The studies here reported were undertaken by different members of the faculty, each of whom had some special interest she wished to pursue. No effort has been made to study all the problems which might be considered, or to make the study comprehensive. Each of the contributors selected her own subject, carried out her own research, and presented her materials in her own way.

Part I, "Winning the War on the Home Front," written by Miss Laura B. Hadley, Associate Professor of Home Economics, includes Chapter 1, "The People of Shelby County Work to Win the War," and Chapter 2, "Alabama College in the War Effort." Part II includes Chapter 1, "A Study of Home Improvement," by Miss Olivia Smenner, Assistant Professor of Home Economics; Chapter 2, "A Study of House Furnishings," by Miss Nellie Mae Touchstone, Assistant Professor of Home Economics; and Chapter 3, "A Study of Small Kitchen Equipment," by Dr. Lois A. Ackerley, Director of the School of Home Economics.

Such a study as this is useful as a basis for courses of study in Home Economics and for other subjects in schools, for family planning, or for the historical interest that such a record of the experiences of a community in time of war may have for the future.

This bulletin has been prepared and will be distributed in the belief that it constitutes a service to education according to the larger and better concept of what education really is.

ARTHUR FORT HARMAN, *President*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors are indebted to and wish to express their thanks to many persons for assistance in the collection of data for these studies.

Dr. T. H. Napier supplied the information on War Bond Sales. Mrs. Melville Harlin, Executive Secretary, and Mr. Richard McGraw, chairman of the Shelby County Chapter, American Red Cross; Mr. Yeager Horn, Chief Clerk, Shelby County War Price and Ration Board; Mrs. E. R. Young and Mrs. Bessie R. Elliott, Clerks of the two selective service boards of the county; Mr. A. A. Lauderdale, County Agriculture Agent, gave information concerning the work of their respective agencies. Mr. John Hardy, owner of Newala Lime Mill, Mr. Henry Johnson of the Buck Creek Cotton Mills, Inc., and Mr. G. L. Chamberlin, former manager of the Boothton Coal Mining Company, were helpful in giving information concerning products of the county's industry going into the war effort. Mr. P. B. Shaw gave information about the participation of the public schools. Dr. E. F. Sloan, County Health Officer, and Dr. C. T. Acker of Montevallo, Reverend W. M. Fuller, pastor of the Baptist Church, Montevallo, and Mrs. Florence Lyman, secretary to the President of Alabama College, supplied information about professional persons in the armed services and other war-related work. Mr. L. C. Walker, Judge of the Probate Court, supplied the figures on juvenile delinquency in Shelby County.

Miss Marion Cotney, Shelby County Home Demonstration Agent, was generous with her time in securing data in regard to the homes in the county. Miss Mary Elizabeth Davis, Farm Security Supervisor, collected data from her clients concerning small kitchen equipment, home furnishing items, and improvements in housing.

Mrs. R. E. Bowden, Jr., gave of her time in helping to get data on housing. To Mrs. J. P. Kelly, Mrs. Paul Rogan of Montevallo, and Miss Myrtle Old, Mrs. W. B. White, and Mrs. F. E. Williams of Columbiana thanks are due for help in locating persons in different parts of the county who were willing to answer the questionnaires.

Thanks also are due to Mr. F. H. Frost for assistance in verifying figures on cost of improvements and to Dr. George A. Douglas, who assisted in making the occupational classifications of families included in the study on housing.

To colleagues on the faculty grateful acknowledgement is made for reports on the special work of the various departments, student club projects, and the activities of faculty members reported in Chapter 2, "Alabama College in the War Effort."


The authors desire to express their thanks especially to Dr. A. F. Harman, President of Alabama College, and Dr. T. H. Napier, Dean of the College, for suggestions and encouragement in the preparation of this bulletin.

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PART I

Winning The War On The Home Front

By LAURA B. HADLEY



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CHAPTER 1

THE PEOPLE OF SHELBY COUNTY WORK TO WIN THE WAR

A few miles east of Montevallo on the Calera highway a small stone marker, almost hidden by the trees on a shady hillside, indicates the geographic center of Alabama. This spot is very nearly the center of Shelby County from east to west and marks off roughly a line between the agricultural and the mineral-producing areas of the county. To the north are lumber and lime and the textile mills at Siluria. Some example of almost every kind of life within the State may be found in this county that is literally "in the heart of Alabama." People live in modest wealth and in great poverty. They operate large farms and they are tenants on tiny patches of soil. They mine coal and limestone, work in lumber camps, factories, and stores. They operate almost every kind of small business. They teach in the schools and they make homes for their families. In no small sense the experiences of Shelby County are typical of those of the State, perhaps of the nation.

Manpower, Raw Materials, and Products from the Farms Contribute to the War Effort

The population of Shelby County according to the census of 1940 was 28,962. However, when the Bureau of the Census released its estimates of Alabama's population, November 1, 1943, this county had only 26,765 persons—a loss of 7.6 per cent. In addition to the actual population loss due to people moving out of the county, many workers have been lost to the armed forces. Still others have found work in nearby wartime projects. While the county itself has no new war plants it is just next door to some of the largest industrial areas in Alabama. The citizens of Shelby County, responding to the call for workers, have taken jobs in the munitions plant at Childersburg, in the steel mills, manufacturing plants, and in the airplane modification center at Birmingham. Since these industries are within driving distance of Shelby County, men and women of the county have made the long drives to and from their work each day in order to carry on in these essential war jobs.

Industry Contributes

In spite of the loss of workers to other parts of the State and to the rest of the country, Shelby County industry—coal mining, manufacturing of agricultural and construction lime, lumbering and saw milling, ginning, textile, bag and ice manufacturing—has been able

to do its part for the war effort. The Buck Creek Cotton Mills, Inc., at Siluria have operated under government orders requiring that a minimum of ten per cent of their production shall go for lend lease and other export trade. Cotton cloth for Russian relief and "gun patches" used for cleaning gun barrels are among the products of these mills going directly to war uses.

Shelby County is the largest lime-producing area in the State. As much as 95 per cent of the output of the 5 lime mills has gone into the war effort. The biggest users are aluminum, steel, and paper manufacturers, and chemical warfare. There are 200 different uses for lime, including water purification, most of which are important in the war economy. The demand for agricultural lime has been greatly increased by the wartime food program.

By far the greatest percentage of the output of the three large coal mining companies of Shelby County goes directly or indirectly into the war effort. In addition to army camps, the essential industries using Shelby County coal include coke plants for the steel mills, powder plants, cotton mills, the generating plants for electric power companies and steamship companies.

Agriculture Contributes

Although the county does not produce a surplus of agricultural products, by increasing the food supply to meet her own needs she has reduced the necessity to draw on the food resources of other areas. Farmers have somehow managed in spite of labor shortages and difficulties in securing new machinery to increase production along many lines. They have continued in work already begun to build up the soil, to stop erosion, to harvest the lumber in an economic manner and plant trees for future use, and to increase their livestock production. The dairymen have managed to keep a reasonably adequate milk supply and the north end of the county supplies a great deal of milk for Birmingham.

Mr. A. A. Lauderdale, County Agricultural Agent for Shelby County, puts it this way:

Shelby County farm labor has been heavily drawn upon by the war industries of Childersburg, Talladega and Birmingham. Even under this handicap the county has adjusted its agriculture in a very surprising manner, producing many dairy and poultry products, beef cattle and hogs. Feed crops, principally of summer pastures, winter grazing, small grain and hays, are being produced on the farm to feed the livestock and poultry. At present we are selling daily two truck loads of milk to the Thorsby Plant and one to the plant in Sylacauga, in addition to the milk going to the Birmingham market. Truck crops

are being produced in increased quantities for the local and Birmingham markets. This production is made possible by the greater use of farm machinery and farm people working longer hours. Farmers are also helping the war effort by cutting pulp wood and saw timber during the lay-by season. They are making their contribution by buying war bonds and helping in all salvage campaigns.

To accomplish all this production more workers were employed in Shelby County in 1943 than in 1940. Men who for one reason or another had not been employed for some time have gone to work. Women have stepped in to fill the gap with the result that more women are employed now than ever before, thus helping to enlarge the county's work force not only for the present but for the post-war years as well. In this connection it is interesting to note that Shelby County is making preparations to keep this large work force usefully employed in the post-war period. Information released by Mr. Milton H. Fies, Chairman of District No. 2, of the Alabama Committee on Economic Development, which appeared in the *Birmingham Age-Herald* (January 26, 1944), shows this clearly:

A post-war employment planning survey [has been completed] in Shelby County by a committee headed by George Scott, Jr., of Siluria. Shelby County is the first county in the State to complete such a survey. Tabulations covering practically all the county's business firms showed an estimated post-war employment of ten per cent over 1940, the best peace-time year ever experienced in the United States. Shelby County businesses and industries reported 374 former employees now serving in the armed forces. All Shelby County enterprises participating in the survey reported post-war plans in such form that they could proceed promptly after the war ends. Of the businesses reporting, forty-three per cent declared they are planning extensions or expect to remodel their plants immediately after the war, while ten per cent advised that they expected to be in the market with new products.¹

Women Fill the Gap

It is especially interesting to note the many ways in which women have stepped in to take the places of men who have been called to the armed forces. In addition to the large number who have taken jobs in the factories referred to above, wives whose husbands have been called to the armed forces have carried on in the trades and businesses and on the farms of the county. Interesting illustrations include managing a soft-drink distributing agency, an insurance agency, a gasoline service station, a retail dry-goods store and a grocery store, and a plumbing business (the wife doing the work

¹The C. E. D. is making detailed studies of industrial employment needs in the post-war years. These studies are to be turned over to the State Chamber of Commerce to be used in planning for the State's future industrial expansion.

herself). Farm women have operated tractors, driven produce trucks to town and done many other kinds of work on the farm which the men folks do when they are at home. Nine of the 22 farm women in Miss Smenner's study (see page 38) were found to be operating the farms while the husbands were working in some war plant. There is a woman mail carrier out of Calera and a woman clerk in the post office at Montevallo. For the first time a woman is town clerk at Wilton.²

Many other married women have continued in or gone back to work in order to help out in the emergency. They are teaching in the kindergarten, in the elementary and high school, and in the college; doing secretarial and stenographic work; clerking in stores; operating beauty parlors; and working in the whole gamut of occupations in which women have usually worked. There are more married students in Alabama College than in any previous time. Most of these are undergraduates who have married while the boys are in the services and have continued in school as a matter of course. There are, however, a number of older women who have returned to fit themselves better for some particular work. They plan to work while their husbands are gone and to be prepared to carry on in whatever circumstances the future has in store for them.

Serving in the Armed Forces

A community feels the impact of war first and with the greatest sense of personal loss when its sons and daughters are called up to fight. From the time of its organization to August, 1944, the Selective Service System (Local Board No. 1 at Columbiana and Local Board No. 2 at Montevallo) has registered 9,054 men between ages 18 and 65. Of this number 2,136 were inducted into some branch of the armed forces. The 6,918 men who were not inducted included, of course, men over military age, men deferred for family reasons and those deferred for essential war-related work, as well as those rejected as unfit for military service. Definite figures are not available for the county as a whole on the numbers of men in these different categories. However, from such samplings as are available it is safe to estimate that the number who were classified as unfit for military service is about half as great as the total number inducted. Close to 10 per cent of the number taken into the military services had, as of August, 1944, been discharged for one reason or another.

²Montevallo has had a woman member of the town council for several years.

Many young women have enlisted in the WAC, WAVE, SPAR, and Marines, but no records are available for the exact numbers.

Professional Workers in Armed Forces

The professional workers of Shelby County have responded to the call of the armed forces. As of August, 1944, there were serving in some branch of the military service 2 of the county's doctors, 1 a lieutenant (j. g.) in the navy and 1 a lieutenant in the army; 2 of the county's dentists, 1 a captain and 1 a major in the army; and 3 nurses, 1 in the army, 1 in the navy, and 1 in the Veterans' Hospital at Tuscaloosa. One of the county's lawyers is serving in the navy. The Methodist minister at Wilton and both Baptist and Methodist ministers at Montevallo have joined the Chaplains Corps. Mr. P. B. Shaw, County Superintendent of Education, reported that as of August, 1944, 9 teachers of the county, 6 men and 3 women, were serving in the armed forces. This does not include the teachers in Alabama College Laboratory School.

Alabama College, including the laboratory school, has lost 13 men and women to the army, navy and merchant marine—8 men and 5 women. Of this number 5 are on leave while the others have resigned.

Education Does Its Part

The County Schools have carried on with the handicaps of unusual teacher turnover and teacher shortages, scarcity of paper and office supplies and of janitor services, delay in the delivery of school books, and postponement of needed building and repairs. Children have had to ride to school in over-crowded school buses and some have walked who once could come in the buses. In spite of all this the quality of work has been maintained and many extra services to boys and girls have been provided. The high schools have added pre-induction courses and modified work in all areas where such changes could make a contribution to the war effort. Victory Corps have been organized in the high schools and through these student organizations much community service has been done—gathering scrap, sale of War Stamps and Bonds, promotion of victory gardens, and recreation programs for young people. High school students have been recruited for farm labor on Saturdays and during the summer and some have spent vacations working in the factories. Schools have been closed on special days so that the school children and the teachers could go to the fields to help pick cotton.

Seven schools (Chelsea, Columbiana, Maylene, Montevallo, Pelham, Thompson, and Vincent) have provided government-aided school lunches. Nutrition education has been emphasized from the first grade through the high schools. The county teachers' organization has maintained an active committee on nutrition. Two elementary school teachers represented the Montevallo community at the National Conference on Nutrition in the Elementary Grades held at Terre Haute, Indiana, in July, 1944, under the auspices of the U. S. Office of Education.

The three vocational home economics departments in the county, the county home demonstration service, and the home supervisor for the Farm Security Agency have worked individually with homemakers and conducted classes all over the county in food preservation, gardening, poultry raising, meal planning, child care, family nutrition, care and repair of home furnishings and clothing, and home care of the sick. They have helped women to understand rationing regulations and to budget their points in meal planning, and have aided in securing the homemakers' cooperation in the price-control program. Two slogans, familiar to all the homemakers of the county, have furnished the keynote for much of this work—"Use it up, wear it out, make it do, or do without," and the O. P. A. homemaker's pledge, "I pay no more than top legal prices; I accept no rationed goods without giving up ration stamps." Plans are under way for setting up a community canning center under auspices of the vocational home economics and agriculture departments at Columbiana.

Volunteer Wartime Services

Citizens of Shelby County have been generous, indeed, with time devoted to the many volunteer services so necessary in time of war: Red Cross work, gathering scrap and saving kitchen fats; promoting and carrying out the sale of War Bonds and Stamps, volunteer work on Selective Service Boards and Price and Rationing Boards, distribution of ration books, community recreation, and service on committees of many kinds such as local defense, Russian Relief, China Relief, and the Camp and Hospital Committee, which raised funds to furnish a sun room at Northington General Hospital for veterans of the war. Funds were raised in the community for the purchase of a piano for Camp Sibert, and almost everyone who had them has given books and magazines for camp and hospital libraries.

War Bond Sales

Shelby County has met and surpassed its bond sales quota from the beginning of the bond sales campaigns through the Fifth War Loan Drive which ended in July, 1944. It has not always met the quota from month to month but the special drives have gone over the quota sufficiently to more than make up the difference. Dr. T. H. Napier, Executive Chairman of the War Finance Board of Shelby County,⁴ has this to say:

The success of these drives has been due largely to the number of people who have been willing to give their time to solicit sales. The number of individuals who have worked in the war loan drives has been very large and every organization in the county has participated. They have every right to feel proud of the job they have done. For the Fifth War Loan Drive Shelby County had a quota of \$183,000.00 in E Bonds and the people of the county invested \$226,631.00 in E Bonds. The total quota for the Fifth War Loan Drive was \$386,000.00 and the total sales in Shelby County were \$608,314.00. It should be remembered that the sales are given in issue value and not in maturity value. All the people who have canvassed in Shelby County have contributed their time. Each beat had a chairman and was responsible for the other members of the committee in that beat. In some beats there were twenty-five or thirty people at work but in smaller beats they were not so many. No one is able to give an accurate statement of the number of people who have cooperated in these sales.

Red Cross Work

The Red Cross, always first to respond to any call of suffering or need, has been well managed and well supported in Shelby County. In 1943, 2,100 different contributors gave \$3,563.66 to the Red Cross. Volunteer workers have given their services in sewing rooms where garments have been produced for war-stricken countries, especially Russia. An inventory of work done up to August 1, 1944, reported by the county chairman, gives some idea of the extent of these services:

Garments made include 61 women's blouses, 41 girls' blouses, 32 women's petticoats, 30 women's slips, 37 men's pajamas, 31 men's night shirts, 31 women's gowns, 2 cotton quilts, and 210 bed pan covers; while 75 bed socks, 20 pairs of army socks, 8 army sleeveless sweaters, 28 navy watch caps, 1 turtle neck sweater, 15 pairs of army gloves, 1 army muffler, and 1 pair of navy socks have been knitted for the army and navy. Besides these, 200 bedside kits and 300 Christmas packages for men in the services have been prepared and given to the Red Cross for distribution.

Much of this work has been possible because of the efforts of the women's clubs in the county. Red Cross educational work has in-

⁴Dr. Napier resigned as of August, 1944.

cluded 2 first aid classes, enrolling 28 students, 27 of whom received certificates; and 15 classes in water safety, in which 191 of the 228 students enrolled received certificates.

Civilian Defense

In the early months of the war, when invasion of the country seemed possible, the County Civilian Defense Committee was organized as a part of the state and national defense program. Fire wardens and airplane spotters planned their organization and practiced their duties. Citizens attended meetings to learn how to protect themselves and how to act in case of bombings—how to prepare their houses so that the fire hazards would be as low as possible, how to put out incendiary bombs, how to wear gas masks. All this appears a bit preposterous now but in those days it seemed very important and necessary.

Plans were worked out in several towns of the county to take care of women and children if it should become necessary to evacuate families from the industrial area at Birmingham. The Montevallo Branch of the American Association of University Women, with assistance of other groups, worked out plans for taking care of children evacuated from England but the British Government cancelled the plans for sending children to this country before any children were sent to Montevallo.

Service on Boards and Committees

It would be difficult to estimate the value or the amount of time given to the community by citizens who have served on the many boards and committees required to carry on the work of administering wartime regulations and programs. Thirty-one citizens in this county, including the examining physicians, have given uncompensated time to the successful operation of the two local draft boards.⁵ These men have performed a difficult and extremely important service requiring judgment, infinite patience, and untiring effort.

Rationing and Price Control has claimed the services of 56 persons since the organization of Shelby County War Price and Rationing Board No. 126, in December, 1941. Thirty-nine persons were giving volunteer service as of August 1, 1944—as general administrator of the board and as panel members and price assistants. The community is indebted to these people for maintaining good rela-

⁵As of August, 1944.

tions between merchants and consumers in the delicate situations that develop in the administration of price and rationing laws. Twenty-four persons have served as members of the price panel, or as price assistants in Columbiana, Montevallo, Calera, Siluria, Wilsonville, Sterrett, Underwood, and Shelby. They check prices in local stores, distribute information, hear and adjust complaints and make sure that the regulations on price control are observed. Without the support of these volunteer workers the machinery of price control could scarcely have functioned to prevent disastrous price inflation. Ten members are serving on the various rationing panels. They pass on applications for special allotments of all rationed goods, revoke privileges when necessary, refer violators to the proper legal authorities and make sure that food, shoes, automobiles, tires, gasoline, bicycles and stoves are distributed to the best interests of the community and according to the law. The four members of the information panel plan and carry out programs to keep the public informed and cooperative.

No report of freely given service to the rationing program would be complete without mentioning the hundreds of persons who assisted in distributing the ration books in the early days of the program. Teachers in the public schools bore the major part of this load. In like manner it is important to give credit to the merchants of the county for the patriotic and uncomplaining manner in which they have done the enormous amount of extra work required of them by rationing and price control.

The Whole Community Has Cooperated

The whole community has shared in the tasks of conserving rubber, sharing rides and helping in salvage collection, and has entered into the spirit of sharing which rationing, price control, and all the plans for conserving and caring for our resources have demanded.

To call the roll of all the many ways in which citizens of the county have given volunteer service to the war effort would be a large task indeed. No doubt important instances have been overlooked. Certainly mention should be made of the time and effort contributed by motion picture theatre operators in selling War Bonds and stamps, taking up collections in all the many campaigns for special funds, and exhibiting documentary films, especially from the Office of War Information. Editors of the county and local papers have given time to committee work and space (news, editorial and advertising) for the promotion of all kinds of projects related to the

war effort. The social workers of the county, working with the Red Cross, have assisted many service men and their families with their special problems, relating to furloughs, illness, pay and the like. Merchants have displayed posters, and have given many hours of time to explaining rationing regulations to the public. The county has met its full quota in every drive for contributions to the War Chest Fund. Shelby County may well be proud of the voluntary contributions of her citizens in their efforts to mitigate privations and hardships and to share in all the necessary work of preserving our economy through the war years.

Like most other communities in Alabama and in the country, Shelby County has mobilized her industry and agriculture, her business and her manpower and has dedicated her resources to the winning of the war. The schools, the churches and families have worked together to maintain family morale and wholesome community life. In the light of the fact that increased juvenile delinquency has become a problem of serious proportions in the State and the Nation, it is of special interest that only 2 cases of juvenile delinquency came before the county courts in 1943, and 5 up to August 1, in 1944. There were 16 such cases in 1940.

Perhaps no more heartening note could be found on which to close.

CHAPTER 2

ALABAMA COLLEGE IN THE WAR EFFORT

Alabama College, which is located in Shelby County, has made numerous adjustments and has expanded its facilities in order to carry out its part in the war effort. In times of great distress and mental and emotional strain people need experiences to release nervous tensions and preserve emotional balance. Many experiences of college life are of great value in this way—reading great literature, playing or listening to good music, participating in drama, athletic games, debate, craft work or creative art, or creative work in the field of home economics. Regular courses in applied psychology contribute to understanding human behavior and learning how to live effectively with people. Courses in abnormal psychology, mental hygiene, family relationships and child development prepare students for living in a world in which war experiences have caused many people to suffer from neurotic disorders. Courses in nutrition, foods, health and physical education contribute to the health of the students.

*Regular Work Modified and New Work Set Up
To Meet Demands of Wartime*

Regularly offered college courses in the social sciences have been adapted to wartime needs and have been valuable in developing understanding of the present world situation—the social and economic problems in which the war had its origins and which must be understood as a basis for permanent peace. In addition to those offered especially for majors, many courses have been adapted to meet the needs of the whole college community. Among those specially valuable to persons wishing to gain an intelligent understanding of the present world situation are Modern History of Europe, The British Empire and Commonwealth, Contemporary History, International Relationships, and the Geography of South America.

The college is also developing an especially worthwhile program for Alabama teachers in the study of the human and natural resources of the State. The course offered in the summer of 1944, which is only a beginning, included definite concrete facts—what the resources are, how they have been handled—and problems needing study and action. The course helps teachers not only to gain the knowledge they require for teaching if the schools are to participate

effectively in building Alabama, but also to see the place of such materials in the school program. This work may be developed in the future to include preparation of reading materials for the schools.

Special attention and guidance is given in the Foreign Language department to students who are interested in foreign language training for war service. With such training they may serve as censors, translators, interpreters and the like.

The School of Home Economics and the Department of Education, cooperating with the State Department of Education, have provided special courses for training emergency teachers for the nursery schools in war work areas. Clothing, house furnishings and home management courses have emphasized conservation and intelligent utilization of materials.

A minor in Recreational Leadership has recently been added to the curriculum by the departments of Art, Music, Physical Education, and Speech. Students taking this minor have provided field work in community recreation in neighboring communities, including defense areas. These students have met with committees of the local communities to plan and conduct programs and have given a real service in war congested areas, in addition to developing much-needed leadership in this important field. First-aid, life-saving and water-safety, and home-nursing courses leading to standard and advanced Red Cross certificates have been given to literally hundreds of persons, including townspeople as well as college students. The Biology Department offers courses which are designed especially to prepare students as public health and medical technicians. These students are prepared to assist doctors and dentists and to become technicians in hospital and state laboratories. The departments of Political Science, Sociology and Secretarial Science offer a minor in Public Administration which fits students for important public service.

In addition to regularly offered work new courses have been added or new programs worked out to prepare students for special responsibilities in a society at war. Two one-hour courses are offered in the History Department designed to keep students and faculty members informed concerning the war in Europe and the war in the Pacific, respectively. For students looking forward to enlistment in the military services courses are available in introductory meteorology, map reading, and world geography. In the School of Home Economics courses in gardening, poultry and food preservation have

been added to prepare students for more effective leadership in food conservation and production.

The College radio has carried programs on nutrition, conservation, and consumer information, and has broadcast round-table discussions of problems of special concern in wartime. The Home Study Service has prepared special outlines and programs for clubs and Parent-Teacher Associations on subjects relating to the war effort.

*Services Offered to Members of the Armed Forces
and to Wartime Community Enterprises*

There are no military camps in Shelby County but the College has provided for the entertainment of service men from camps throughout the State, who have been invited to college dances, concerts, lectures and College Night programs. Men and women in the uniform of any of the armed forces of the Allied Nations are guests of the College while they are on the campus, and meals and admission to all campus events are free to them.

The Glee Club, small groups of music students, and the Dance Group have given concerts; and groups from the College have given plays at the different military establishments and U. S. O. centers. Faculty members and students have traveled to industrial areas to give entertainments, conduct discussion groups, provide recreation programs and to assist with creative art centers.

Faculty Serving in the Armed Forces

The Alabama College faculty has lost thirteen members to the armed forces. Two men are serving in the navy: one a communications officer with the rank of lieutenant (j. g.) in the Pacific theatre of war; another, also a lieutenant (j. g.) in the U. S. N. R. Ammunition Depot in California. One young woman is an ensign in the WAVE. Others include an army sergeant in the European theatre of war, a signal corps captain in the WAC serving in France. Three are army dietitians with rank of lieutenant, one in the European theatre and two with the Army Nurse Corps. One member of the faculty enlisted in the merchant marine. Besides these there are four young men from whom information about military status is not available.

Alabama College Students in Military Service

The alumnae secretary has records of 119 graduates and former students who (as of August, 1944) were serving in some branch of

the armed forces or other government service directly connected with the war effort. These services include the WAC, WAVE, SPAR, WASP, Marine Corps, army staff dietitian, AUS Medical Detachments, American Red Cross, and munitions inspectors; while one graduate of Alabama College is with the French Woman's Auxiliary.

Faculty Civilian Services

Besides the men and women serving in the armed forces other members of the College faculty have been granted leaves of absence for special civilian war service. An economist has been serving as regional officer for the Office of Price Administration since the early days of that organization. A home economist was on leave eight months in 1941 as specialist in the U. S. Office of Education to assist in organizing the Emergency Education Program. A member of the music faculty and a member of the physical education faculty are with the Red Cross in the European theatre of war. Others of the College staff who have resigned for war-related work include the alumnae secretary (to do secretarial work at the Mobile shipyards), a member of the psychology staff, a member of the English staff, the executive secretary of the College (to do civilian personnel work for the army), and a member of the library staff (to become a librarian at Maxwell Field). Two members of the faculty of the laboratory schools resigned to become instructors in the Emergency Education Program at Mobile.

Members of the College faculty have served on important boards and committees and have given service to much war-created work. The Dean of the College served as Executive Chairman of the War Finance Board of Shelby County from the time of its organization to the end of the Fifth War Loan Drive. The Business Manager served as chairman of Selective Service Local Board No. 2 for 12 months. Three different members of the faculty have served on the Shelby County War Price and Rationing Board. The head of the School of Home Economics is a member of the State Nutrition Council, and another member of the home economics staff has been county nutrition chairman. A member of the history faculty is serving on the Shelby County Committee on Economic Development. The head of the History Department edited for the Bureau of Public Administration, University of Alabama, the publication, *War Comes to Alabama*, an attempt to interpret what was happening to Alabama as a result of the impact of the war. She was author of the final chapter, "Post-War Prospects," and another member of the

History Department faculty wrote the first chapter, "Population." The head of the Art Department is Crafts Consultant for the South-eastern Region, U. S. O.

The College has also felt keenly the loss of many workmen from the campus. The college plumber was lost to the navy as a civilian worker at Key West. It has been much more difficult to keep up the lawns and the buildings, and the dietitian and her staff have been sorely taxed by the shortage of help.

Vocational Guidance and Recruitment for Jobs

The College has extended its facilities for helping students find jobs by cooperating with recruitment agencies for important war work. A representative of U. S. Civil Service was on the campus each week during the spring of 1944 for interviews with students, giving tests and signing up students (mainly seniors) for civil service jobs. Representatives of the Cadet Nurse Corps, WAC, WAVE, and Signal Corps, as well as of some important war industries, have come to the campus; and arrangements have been made for them to confer with interested students.

In order that students might have as much guidance as possible in selecting the kind of work they could do in the war effort and to keep before them, also, their responsibilities for making contributions the Convocation Committee has brought speakers to the campus, the library has displayed books and pamphlets on war work, the Vocational Advisory service, the Vocational Guidance Committee as well as department heads and other faculty members have provided for individual and group discussion of wartime job opportunities and requirements.

Recent graduates of the College, because of their special training, have been able to fill many important wartime jobs—chemical analysts and laboratory technicians for the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company, the Eastman Kodak Company, and the Childersburg munitions plant; draftsmen in the shipbuilding yards; personnel workers, occupational analysts and secretarial workers in war industries. They have gone into military services and the U. S. Employment Service; case work, recreational and administrative work with the Red Cross; civil service work of many kinds, especially as dietitians and secretaries. Four Alabama College students were selected for the Curtiss-Wright Training program which sent selected college women graduates to engineering schools where they received special training for work in the aircraft industry. Two recent graduates

went to the Bureau of Scientific Research in Washington, D. C. In the meantime, college graduates have continued to do the important work of teaching, social work, dietitians, secretarial work, and homemaking, as always.

College Organizations

Through the work of College organizations students have been able to take part in important war work.

Each year since 1941, the Young Women's Christian Association has sponsored the World Student Service Fund drive on the Alabama College campus. This drive is for the relief of college students in war-torn countries and for the assistance of anyone who wishes to continue studying while in prison camps, no matter what country he may be in. The fund is given by college students to aid their fellow students. The money is distributed by the World Young Men's Christian Association with international headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. For the three-year period of 1941 through 1943, the organization raised \$807 and collected over 90 textbooks to be used by American student prisoners. The Y. W. C. A. also sponsored the Red Cross work on the campus, making themselves responsible for a workroom where sewing and packing was done. In 1941-42, they made 30 layettes and knitted around 40 sweaters, scarfs, and caps. In 1942-43, they made 65 nightshirts; and in 1943-44, 50 blouses for women and girls. Members of the Ivor Spafford Club, the home economics club on the campus, took the leadership in this work, organizing and directing the sewing.

The Ivor Spafford Club has cooperated with other war activities on the campus and kept the pledge for bettering their nutritional habits, saving, and buying more carefully. They have also sponsored the scrap metal and scrap paper drives on the campus. The Retailing Club sponsored the sale of war stamps on the campus. Omicron Nu, honorary home economics society, made a study of the food habits of students in the College dining rooms in 1941-42, and in 1942-43 made a survey of the vocational plans of Alabama College students. During 1943-44 they undertook to promote interest among the students in contributing to the blood plasma bank and to make arrangements with the hospital in Birmingham for students and faculty who volunteered. In 1944-45 they plan to carry forward the projects begun in the previous two years.

The International Relations Club, which is organized under the Carnegie Foundation for International Peace, has for its purpose

discussion of world affairs. This club sponsored discussions each week during 1942-43, at which a member of the faculty reviewed the war news and talked on any phase of the war in which he was particularly interested. In 1943-44, in addition to the discussions, some new books having special bearing on the war were reviewed. The club receives a shipment of new books from the Carnegie Endowment each year and anyone in the College is privileged to read them.

In 1943 an essay, "The Next Decade in American Foreign Policy," was prepared by students in the history department and published as a college bulletin. This had wide circulation and attracted comment from State newspapers. The History Department has been able to send to the Institute of Foreign Affairs, Stanford, Connecticut, two students who have taken training under Sir Norman Angell and have come back to do campus work relating to foreign affairs.

Lambda Sigma Pi, national senior honorary society, has plans for sponsoring an all-college student career conference early in the 1944-45 year. At this time, under the general supervision of the Director of the Vocational Advisory Service, students will have an opportunity to take vocational aptitude tests, attend round-table discussions and interview specialists in lines of work of interest to them, and to attend meetings at which an outstanding woman specially interested in women's work will be the speaker. This assistance in choosing the right occupation will be valuable to students in preparing themselves for their part in building the post-war world. Special contributions of other groups (Glee Club, Dance Group, Physical Education Club) have been mentioned in earlier sections.¹

In addition to special services already described, the College has placed its facilities at the disposal of the community for war-related enterprises. Rooms in the College have been used for the Montevallo Red Cross Sewing Chapter. College auditoriums have been used for public meetings. In the early days of the war the College cooperated with the local Civilian Defense Committee in holding a series of meetings for the purpose of educating citizens in defense procedures—airplane spotting, fire fighting, protection from chemical warfare, and the like. Practically all college students have participated in one way or another in the many programs contributing to the war effort; and the administration, faculty and staff have attempted to make college programs sufficiently flexible and sensitive to new needs to be of maximum service in the country's time of special need.

¹See p. 11

PART II

Studies of Shelby County Homes In Wartime

By

OLIVIA SMENNER

NELLIE MAE TOUCHSTONE

LOIS A. ACKERLEY

INTRODUCTION

General Statement and Need for the Study

Economic and social changes in Shelby County since 1940, as described in Part I of this pamphlet, have influenced in many ways the lives of individuals and of families living in the county. The total income of the county, along with that of the rest of the State, has increased greatly between 1940 and 1944. This fact suggested the hypothesis that families have had more to spend on their living. However, it seemed clear that all families have not had the same amount of change. It seemed probable that some families have suffered a decrease in income because the main wage earner has been drawn into the armed forces, while the amount of increase in other instances may have been small. Still others, doubtless, have had greatly increased incomes because family members have been employed in war work at high wages, because business conditions have improved, or because better prices have been received for farm products. In some known instances dependency allotments from service men have provided better living for their families than they had ever known before.

Important changes of a psychological nature have been experienced. The security normally gained from wholesome family living has been threatened, possibly lost altogether in some instances, through the separation of family members and the postponement of family plans. Children have been growing up in homes without the fathers who are away at war. Normal affectional experiences have been denied.

Home economists are concerned with what is happening to families. They need to know what new problems are produced by the war and how families are meeting them.

Along with others who care about the welfare of the people in the community, home economists have long been concerned with housing conditions in Shelby County. It has required no formal studies to reveal that many families live in homes that are below standards required for health, comfort and wholesome family life.

Such investigations as have been made in recent years bear out this fact. A survey of Shelby County, made by the school authorities a few years ago, revealed unusually crowded living conditions, poor arrangements for sanitation, houses badly in need of repair, and

poor home furnishings in many homes in the county.¹ Home economics teachers, who visit all the homes of their high school home economics students for the purpose of supervising home project work, have for many years recognized the need for home improvement as one of their most important concerns.

Common observation reveals that many new houses have been built in Shelby County during the past few years, and that old houses have been painted, re-roofed, and repaired. *To what extent are families taking advantage of such increases in income as they have to make needed home improvements?*

The Problems Selected for Study

Three members of the faculty of the School of Home Economics have undertaken, in the investigations reported here, to throw some light on the question raised above. Limited resources for investigations have led to the selection of this aspect of family living for study because it is tangible and lends itself to reasonably objective consideration. The house, its equipment, and its furnishings can readily be observed. An investigation concerned with the house has the further advantage that it reflects quickly any changes in economic status. In turn, the house they live in, with its furnishings, affects the individuals of the family in so far as it provides adequately not only for comfort and shelter but for rest, relaxation and feelings of security. The home, that is, the physical setting for the family, may go even further in affording opportunities for self-expression and in making possible satisfying social contacts between the family and the community. Answers to the following questions are sought:

To what extent do families have more money to spend?

How much, and in what ways, have they spent their money on home improvements?

What kinds of improvements have they made?

In what ways, and to what extent have scarcities in materials and equipment usually available for the upkeep of homes affected their plans and how have wartime priorities hindered them in their efforts?

To what extent and in what ways have these scarcities of materials affected the comfort and convenience of families?

¹A Survey of Shelby County. Faculty Alabama College Laboratory School. Unpublished study. Department of Education, Alabama College, 1935.

Method of Securing Data

Each of the three investigators used a questionnaire for securing data and certain questions were common to each study: (1) What is the occupation of the main wage earner? (2) What is the size and composition of the family? (3) In which of four groups does the past year's income belong—Group I, \$999 or less; Group II, \$1000-1999; Group III, \$2000-2999; Group IV, \$3000 or more? (4) Has there been a change in income since the war began and if so, what is the approximate amount of income increase or decrease?

Answers to the questionnaire were secured, for the most part, by the interview method, either in the home or at a group meeting of some kind; but a small number were obtained by mail. In each case the information was secured from the mother of the family.

*Brief Summary of Data Common to All Three Studies**(1) Occupation and family size*

Data were secured from a total of 342 families—111 in Miss Smenner's study, 106 in Miss Touchstone's, and 123 in Miss Acklerley's. In an effort to get a varied sampling of the population of the county, inquiries were made of families whose main wage earners were employed in industrial plants and textile mills, in mining, on farms—both as owners and as tenants, including a few clients of the Farm Security Administration—in business both large and small, in the professions, and as city and town officials and employees of the federal government.

These families range in size from 1 to 14, the most usual being a family of four or five members.

(2) Income status and income change since 1940

Incomes ranged from those of a few families who received public assistance to very comfortable ones, but the most usual income was found to be between \$1000 and \$2000.

No family reported an income for the past year that was less than that of the year just before the war. About half of these families had had increased incomes and about half believed their incomes to be the same as before. There were some increased incomes and some that remained the same in each occupational group. Workers in the skilled trades and farmers reported increased income more frequently than any of the other occupational groups; semi-skilled and clerical groups the next most frequently; while those engaged in the pro-

fessions and in businesses most frequently reported no increase in income. However, in each occupational group there was wide variation in the amount of increase in the income for those whose incomes were greater.

Three Studies

Miss Olivia Smenner has attempted to find out how much and what kinds of improvements have been made in housing and who has made them; whether increased income or some other influence has led to the improvements that have been made; and what kinds of satisfactions the families have experienced in making these improvements.

Miss Nellie Mae Touchstone, in her investigation, has sought answers to similar questions regarding improvements in house furnishings, while Dr. Lois Ackerley has inquired into the effects of wartime conditions on the kinds of small kitchen equipment homemakers have been able to secure and the kinds of service they have had from articles made from the substitute materials made necessary by the war priorities. The data of the study were collected during the summer of 1944.

CHAPTER 1

A STUDY OF HOUSING IN SHELBY COUNTY, 1941-1944

Shelter is a fundamental need for everyone. The house protects the family members from outside influences and contributes to their inner needs as well. It has been said that any man's worth depends upon the state of mind which his home and family nurture in him. The home is of inestimable value to the child also. This idea is best stated in the White House Conference Report on *The Home and The Child*: "The house in which a child spends the early years of his life is intimately associated with all the first impressions which shape his later attitudes and affect in many ways his development. It should express the highest standard which the income can provide." The home furnishes a basis of security and happiness for the family.

It was with values such as these in mind that this study of housing in Shelby County was undertaken.

The Problem

Thinking that the increased amount of war work in Shelby County might have resulted in an increase of family income, we wanted to find out if any of it was being used for improved housing and for care of grounds around the home. We wanted to determine the extent and kind of such improvements as were being made, as well as the improvements families had planned but had not been able to make because of the war. We also wanted to know what kinds of satisfactions families sought and secured from the improvements they had made on their homes.

Method of Collecting Materials

Women's organizations of the various churches in Calera, Columbiana, Montevallo, and Siluria assisted in locating families and securing their cooperation in the study. The County Home Demonstration Agent and the Home Supervisor for the Farm Security Administration assisted in reaching rural groups, and home economics teachers at Montevallo and Columbiana helped locate other families.

The questionnaires were presented to 150 women in different parts of the county. Of that number 111, or 74 per cent, filled out and returned them. One-half of the questionnaires (56) were filled out in personal interviews; one-third (37) were secured at group

meetings with someone to assist the women in filling them out; while the remaining 17 per cent (18) were filled out independently and returned by mail. An explanation of the study was made to each person who was willing to fill out the questionnaire. General questions pertaining to the family background were asked before specific questions on housing were presented.

The Questionnaire

The general questions called for information on the following: (1) the occupation of the head of the family, (2) the size and composition of the family, (3) status of the home, whether owned or rented, (4) income bracket for the previous year, and (5) changes in income since the war began.

The questions on housing asked for: (1) the kinds of improvements that had been made since 1940, (2) the cost of improvements made, (3) method of securing labor and materials, (4) the difficulties that had prevented making desired improvements, (5) the improvements to be accomplished when the war is over and materials and labor are again available, and (6) ways in which the homemaker believed the family had benefitted by such home improvements as had been made.

The various types of improvements inquired about in the questionnaire were organized under four headings: (1) *Remodeling*, including the addition of rooms to the house, partitioning space off for extra rooms or closets, making additions or changes in the kitchen or other rooms, or adding porches and screening house or porch; (2) *Modernizing*, including the installation of electricity for lights or cooking, installation of a central heating system, the addition of a new well or pump for the well, running water added to the bathroom or kitchen, provision of outdoor sanitary facilities where no sewage systems were available, insulation of the house or part of it, and screening the house if it had never been screened; (3) *Repairing*, under which were included such items as adding a new roof or repairing an old one, painting the outside of the house, repairing stairways, refinishing floors, walls and woodwork in the interior of the house, repairing porches, chimneys, windows, siding, or foundations of the house, and repairing or replacing screens; and (4) *Improvement of the home grounds*, under which were included such items as planting shrubs, grass, flowers, fruit or shade trees, terracing the yard, putting in a drainage system, putting down walks or driveways, and making a service area or outdoor living room.

The questionnaire was set up so that specific items of improvement made in each of the four large areas could be checked. For each item space was provided for checking the cost of each improvement. Where improvements had not been made or were not extensive, the women were asked to check under a general heading, "Reasons for not making other desired improvements," any of three sub-points, "inability to get labor," "inability to get materials," and "lack of money." In a third column, with the heading, "Things you intend to do when peace returns," they were asked to indicate improvements which they considered necessary to their homes and which they hoped to make after the war.

They were asked also to say who did the work—whether a hired laborer, the husband or some combination of family members; which of the materials used in these improvements were available at home without cost, such as homemade lumber and shingles, stone, sand or gravel.

Writing was required for answering the last two questions, which were "What personal benefits did you and your family get from improving the home?" and "Please give some interesting reactions."

Findings on the General Questions About the Families

Families Studied

The 111 families represent all occupational groups in the county. However, since most of the unskilled laborers and miners had to be reached entirely by personal interviews in their homes, and means of getting to homes too far away to reach by walking were limited, the sampling from these occupational groups is smaller than their numbers in the total population makes desirable. The findings of this study apply more particularly to those elements in the population represented in the cooperating groups, namely, church groups, clients of the Extension Service and Farm Security Agency, and families whose children take home economics in high school.

Occupational and Income Groups

For purposes of comparison the replies were organized on the basis of the occupation of the head of the family into the following eight groups: I. Professional and executive, II. Semi-professional and managerial, III. Clerical, retail business and skilled laborers, IV. Farmers, V. Semi-skilled laborers, minor clerical and business workers, VI. Unskilled laborers. Two other groups included: VII. Homemakers who were widows and did not work outside their

homes, and VIII. A miscellaneous group consisting of servicemen, retired businessmen, and an unclassified railroad man.² These last two groups are too small for significant comparison. In order to make further comparisons, the replies were tabulated again on the basis of family income, irrespective of occupational status. Since 6 women of the 111 studied did not supply information about income, the 103 families who did state the income are represented in this grouping. Table I shows the distribution of these 111 families in the several occupational and income groups.

Table I. Distribution of 111 Families in Four Different Income Groups and According to Occupational Classification

Occupational Groups	No. of families		Income Groups							
	in study	giving income data	Up to \$999		\$1000 to \$1999		\$2000 to \$2999		\$3000 and over	
			No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
All groups.....	111	103	23	22.5	35	34	19	18.5	26	25
I. Professional & Executive..	17	16	2	12.5	4	25	1	6.2	9	56.3
II. Managerial & Semi-Prof..	9	9			1	11	3	33	5	56
III. Retail Business Skilled Trades	21	20	1	5	8	40	7	35	4	20
IV. Farmers..	22	20	11	55	7	35			2	10
V. Minor Business or Clerical Jobs.....	20	17	3	18	9	53	4	23	1	6
VI. Unskilled Labor	5	5	3	60	2	40				
VII. Housewives	5	4	2	50	1	25	1	25		
VIII. Misc.....	12	12	1	8.3	3	25	3	25	5	41.7
TOTAL ..	111	103	23		35		19		26	

Note: Percentages are figured on basis of the number of 103 families who supplied income data.

²Group I—Lawyers, doctors, druggists, ministers, teachers and morticians; Group II—Bankers, post office officials, contractors, Alabama Power Company manager, solid fuels administrator, cotton brokers, owner of a lumber and building materials business; Group III—Post office clerks, sales managers, surveyor, automobile dealers, merchants, airplane inspectors, factory foremen, carpenters, and railroad clerks; Group IV—Farmers, seven of whom also have war jobs such as firemen, tractor drivers, outside worker at a mine, and powder plant employees; Group V—A saw mill contractor, garage owners, sales tax examiners, miners, defense workers, store clerks, stenographers, and barbers; Group VI—Textile workers, heading sawyers, sawmill workers, and haulers; Group VII is made up of the homemakers, who do not work outside the home; and Group VIII includes a miscellaneous group composed of service men's families, retired business or professional men, and an unclassified railroad man.

Family Size and Composition

Family sizes ranged from 1 to 12, but most of the families, 97 out of the 111, had between 2 and 5 members. (See table II.) There were 13 widows, 2 having no one living with them, and 7 families who had other relatives living with them: 1 grandfather, 2 grandmothers, 2 grandsons, 1 elderly aunt, and 1 daughter-in-law.

Of these families, 23 had sons and daughters in some branch of the armed forces; 17 families had 1 son each; 4 families had 2 sons each; and there was 1 daughter each in 2 other families—25 boys and 2 girls in all. The families altogether have 54 boys and 44 girls of school age (6 to 17 years); 16 boys and 17 girls of pre-school age; and 49 boys and 47 girls over 17 years of age. It is interesting to note that the number of boys and girls in these 111 families is almost equal at each age group, but more girls are at home now because military service has called the boys away.

Table II. Family Size and Composition

	Number of Families of Each Size												
Number of members in family-----	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
Whole families-----	98	17	26	22	21	5	2	1	2	1		1	
Mothers only-----	13	2	4	1	2	4							
Having relatives in the home-----	7			1	1	4	1						
TOTALS -----	111	2	21	27	24	25	5	2	1	2	1	0	1

Size of Houses in Relation to Family Size

The size of the house was checked because of the possible relationship between that and the amount of improvements made. These houses ranged in size from 2 to 11 rooms. Professional and managerial groups lived in houses with an average of slightly over 7 rooms. Houses of all other groups, except that of unskilled labor, averaged 5.5 rooms, while this last named group lived in houses which had, on the average, only 4.9 rooms.

Of the 111 houses 63, or 57 per cent, had bathrooms, 10 families had 2 bathrooms, and 1 had 3.

The size of the house is related to the occupational status of the family head. The semi-skilled trade group has the smallest size house; however, in relation to the size of the family, it is more adequate than the houses of some of the higher income groups. The professional, managerial, housewife, and miscellaneous groups av-

erage 7.5 rooms for each house, while the retail or skilled trade, the farmers, and small business groups average 5.5 rooms. The number of homes with or without bathrooms seems to bear some relation to occupational status, the managerial group having the most.

Table III shows that 26 families live in six-room houses and 22 of that number have 5 or less members per family; 18 families live in five-room houses, but 15 of them have four or less members. Of the 19 families living in seven-room houses, 16 have 5 or fewer members. In general, the size of the family is in inverse ratio to the size of the houses. In 14 families the home has less than 1 room per person. The most unsatisfactory housing arrangements are found in the family of 9 living in a four-room house, a family of 10 in a six-room house, and a family of 12 in an eight-room house.

Table III. Comparison of Family Size and Number of Rooms in House

Number Living in Each Size House											
No. in family	Number of rooms in house										Total
1-----	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
2-----	1		2	4	8	1	2	1			2
3-----			1	4	5	5	4	2	4	1	19
4-----			4	2	6	5	2		3		26
5-----				3	2	4	7	4	2	1	23
6-----					1	2	1			1	23
7-----						1	1				5
8-----							1				2
9-----				1				1			1
10-----						1					2
11-----											1
12-----								1			1
TOTAL---	1	5	12	18	26	19	10	10	3	1	105

105 families—six did not give number of rooms in house.

Home Ownership

Of the 89 non-farm families, 67, or 73 per cent, own their homes. As might be expected, the largest number of renters, 40 per cent in each group, is in the semi-skilled and unskilled labor groups, while only 15 per cent of the 26 families in the professional and business groups rent their homes.

Farm Families

Only 3 of the 22 farm families were tenant farmers; however, 5 of them were purchasing their farms through the Farm Security Agency. The farms ranged in size from 25 to 290 acres, the average size being 89.75 acres, and the size most often stated 75 acres. In 7 cases the fathers worked at other jobs in addition to farming. In

these instances it was usual for the mothers to manage the farms with such help as the husbands were able to give during their off hours.

Income Changes During the War Period

Of the 103 families who supplied income data, 47, or 45 per cent, (See Table I), reported having increased incomes since the war began; 58, or 55 per cent, reported no change in income during the period studied; while none claimed to have a smaller income than they had before the beginning of the war.

A comparison of income changes according to the occupations of family heads revealed greater and more numerous increases for families in the lower occupational groups, 70 per cent of the farmers, 55 per cent of the skilled trades and business group, and 50 per cent of the minor clerical and semi-skilled trades group having larger incomes than they had before the war. On the other hand, 70 per cent of the professional and executive group and 78 per cent of the managerial and semi-professional group reported no increase in income at all. In the miscellaneous classification, 83 per cent reported no change, and 17 per cent had had an increase in earnings.

When income change was studied according to different income groups a still different picture was disclosed. Only one group—that between \$1000 and \$1999—reported “increased income” as frequently as “no change in income.” To enlarge, of the 25 families in the group earning less than \$1000, 9 families earn more and 15 have had no change in income since the war began. Of the 35 families in the group earning between \$1000 and \$1999, 18 have had an increase of income and 17 have the same income. Of the 20 families whose incomes are in the group between \$2000 and \$2999, 8 have more money and 11 have the same amount to spend. Of the 25 families in the group earning over \$3000, 11 earn more and 14 have the same incomes they had before the war.

Extent and Kind of Home Improvements Made

From these data, supplied by 111 families of Shelby County, an interesting story of their efforts to improve their homes takes form. The data, though not extensive, reveal an over-all picture of what these people are doing now and planning for the future. They show that 93 families, 84 per cent of the total group, have made some improvements in their homes since the beginning of the war. Two-thirds of this number spent something on repairs, one-third made

some effort to beautify the grounds, over one-fourth remodeled their houses in some way, and one-fifth modernized their houses.³ The total amount spent for all improvements was \$14,099.78, an average of \$151.61 per family.

Table IV shows the distribution of this \$14,099.78 among the different types of improvements and the average expenditure per family on each.

Table IV. Expenditures for Four Different Types of Housing Improvements Made by 93 Families

Type of improvement made	No. families making each type	Total expenditures for each type	Average expenditure per family on each type	Percentage of \$14,099.78 spent on type
Remodeling-----	31	\$ 3,319.85	\$107.09	23.5
Modernizing-----	23	1,908.50	82.98	13.5
Repairing-----	76	8,072.33	106.21	57.3
Beautifying grounds-----	47	799.10	17.00	57.3
TOTALS-----	177	\$14,099.78	\$151.61	100.0

Note: The total number here is greater than 93, the number of families, because some families made more than one type of improvement.

Remodeling

Remodeling was done by 31 families or 27.9 per cent of the total group studied. These families spent \$3319.85 or an average of \$107.09 per family. Of these families 8 built new porches at a cost of \$641; 8 screened their porches, spending \$209; 7 added cabinets or built-in furniture at a cost of \$152, 6 changed partitions in the house to make new space or made a room out of a hall, spending \$531 for the improvement; 6 built storage closets and a pantry, costing \$94; and 6 others remodeled kitchens at a cost of \$173.85; 3 families built new rooms at a cost of \$585; two added new bathrooms which cost \$425. Miscellaneous items for one family each included de-termiting the house, re-working a basement into a play room, and adding table-top cabinets to the kitchen, at a total cost of \$485. The amount spent per family on remodeling the houses ranged from \$5 to \$425.

Modernizing

Only 23 or one-fifth of the homes were modernized. The total amount spent was \$1908.50, the average cost being \$82.98. At a cost of \$208, 7 families (6 of them farmers) built new sanitary

³For explanation of terms, see pages 34 and 35.

out-door toilets; 5 new wells, with pumps added to three of them, cost \$306; 3 families spent \$430 for bathroom and kitchen fixtures; 2 spent \$125 for running water in the bathrooms; 4 screened houses for the first time at a cost of \$68. Three families (all farmers) spent \$130 to install electricity in their homes; 2 families insulated part of the house at a cost of \$110. An attic fan, stoker and miscellaneous items cost one family \$531.50. The cost per family of these improvements ranged from \$14.50 to \$247.

Repairing

Some repairs were made on their homes by 76 families, 68.5 per cent of the number studied. The total cost was \$8072.33 with an average cost per family of \$106.21.

The largest outlay of all money spent for repairing was spent on painting the exterior of the house. Thirty-seven per cent of the families spent \$2713.50 on painting frame houses or on the wood trim of the exterior of brick homes. Slightly over one-half (41 families) refinished the walls of their houses, using paint, Kemtone, wall paper, or plaster at a total cost of \$1539. Painting woodwork in the house was done by 50 per cent of them at a cost of \$1350; varnishing floors was done by 24 per cent at a cost of \$373.05; screens were mended or replaced by 21 per cent of the families at a cost of \$193.48; a new roof was put on the house or the roof repaired at a cost of \$1071 by 20 per cent of them; and another 20 per cent repaired porches at a cost of \$150.74. Smaller numbers spent \$168.50 repairing windows, \$115.51 repairing foundations of the house, \$108.50 repairing floors, \$79.50 making outside stairways safe, and \$30 repairing chimneys. Replacing old sewage pipes with steel ones and many odd jobs account for \$179.35.

The cost per family for repairing ranged from \$5 to \$550. Of all occupational groups, Group VII, the housewives, spent most, averaging \$197 each. The next highest amount was spent by Group III, the retail business and skilled trades, their average being \$129.25 per family. The lowest expenditure per family, \$30, was in Group VI, the unskilled laborers. The farmers averaged \$76.73 per family.

Improvements Made to Yards

Since good housing includes an interesting setting for the home, some questions were asked about the yard. Forty-seven families, or 42 per cent, had improved the home grounds since the war. As one might expect, much less was spent on the yard than on the improve-

ments of the house. The total cost was \$799.10, or an average of \$17 per family. The range in cost was \$1 to \$100, but most of the families spent less than \$25.

Of these 47 families, 30 spent \$41.90 for flowers; 21 families spent \$92.50 for shrubs; 12 planted grass at a cost of \$21.80. Planting trees was no small item in the cost of yard improvements made by 24 families. Of this number, 16 families spent \$213.50 for fruit trees. The largest single amount spent for fruit trees by one person was \$80, but the cost ranged from \$3 to \$80. Pecan trees which cost \$13 were planted by 4 families, and shade trees which cost from nothing to \$20 were planted by four (one planting a cork tree given by the government as an experiment). In all, \$248.50 was spent for new trees either for home improvement, to furnish food for the family or to bring in an income later. Trees were planted by 9 farmers, 5 families in the retail business group, 4 families in the clerical and semi-skilled group, 3 families in the professional group, and 1 family in the unskilled group.

Of the total number improving the grounds, 6 families put down concrete walks at a cost of \$78; 5 made an outdoor living room at a cost of \$58, and 4 made a service area at a cost of \$7; 3 families terraced the yard at a cost of \$69, and 2 put in a drainage system at a cost of \$100; 1 family built a barbecue pit at a cost of \$12.50; and another put up two spotlights which amounted to \$30, so that the family might play games at night.

In response to the question, "Did you attempt to landscape the yard?" 57 per cent answered "yes" and 43 per cent answered "no." Less landscaping was done by the low income groups than by those of the higher brackets; however, in no group did all of the members attempt some organized method of planting the home grounds.

Who Did the Work on Home Improvements?

Although hired help was employed in many instances, particularly for the more highly skilled kinds of work, family members did a great deal of the work required to make these home improvements. Nearly three-fourths of the 31 families who remodeled their homes employed hired labor; but in 3 families the husband and wife did all the work; in another the husband did all the work; and in still another, all of the work was done by a combination of the family members. Of the 76 families who repaired their homes, 43 hired all the work done. In 10 of the homes most of the work was done by the combined efforts of the husband, wife and children with a

small amount of hired labor where special skills were needed. The work in 8 of the homes was done as a cooperative job by the husband and wife; the husband did all the work in 8 of the families; and in 5 homes the mother and children did the work. Of the 47 families, 39 used hired help for a great part in the work done on the yards, even though some members of the family helped in every case. In 8 families no hired help of any kind was used.

Home-Produced Building Material

From their own property 15 families were able to furnish part of the materials needed for the improvement of their homes. Of these, 4 used homemade lumber; 4 had stone; 3 each had sand and gravel; and 1 supplied homemade shingles. All of these people, except a teacher who lived on a farm, were farmers.

Relation of Income and Occupational Status to Amount Spent on Home Improvements

Examining the data in another way reveals interesting relationships between family income and the amount of improvements made. Table V shows the amounts spent by each of the different occupational groups on four different types of housing, and Table VI shows how these expenditures were made according to the size of annual income. Tables V and VI should be studied together.

Table VI shows a gradual increase in average expenditure per family for home improvement as income increases, being respectively \$121.37, \$122.34, \$131.24, and \$152.59 for the four income classifications. While the largest total outlay, \$4281.90, was made by the middle income groups, \$1000 to \$1999, more families in this group improved their homes, making for a smaller average expenditure. It is interesting to note, however, that the families in the highest occupational groups have not spent most on home improvements. The largest average expenditure per family made in any occupational group, except for the one family in the unskilled labor group and the "homemakers" group, was in the semi-skilled labor group, being \$199.31. One may, therefore, conclude that the amount of expenditures was not greatly influenced by the size of the income.

Difficulties That Prevented Families From Making Desired Improvements

Almost three-fourths of the group (80 families) did no remodeling. Most of the families who had wished to do so gave more than one reason. Of this number, 46 mentioned the scarcity of required

Table V. A Comparison of the Expenditures and Kinds of Improvements
Made by the Different Occupational Groups

Occupational Classification	No. families making im- provements	Amount Spent for Different Improvements						Per cent of total exp. by each income group
		Remodeling	Modernizing	Repairing	Improve- ment of yard	Total Exp. of ea. group	Average Exp. per family	
All families-----	93							
I. Professional or Executive-----	17	\$ 634.00	\$ 357.00	\$1414.50	\$ 47.90	\$ 2453.40	\$144.32	17.3
II. Semi-professional or managerial--	9	235.00	14.50	874.50	56.50	1180.50	131.17	8.3
III. Retail business, clerical, skilled trades-----	16	347.00	165.00	1809.50	212.10	2533.60	158.35	18.0
IV. Farmers-----	21	388.00	774.00	997.50	215.70	2375.20	113.46	16.8
V. Semi-skilled, minor clerical or clerical jobs-----	16	1570.85	418.00	1268.85	85.90	3343.60	199.31	24.0
VI. Unskilled labor-----	1		180.00	30.00	80.00	290.00	290.00	2.0
VII. Homemakers who do not work outside the home-----	5	50.00		985.00	100.00	1135.00	227.00	8.0
VIII. Miscellaneous, servicemen's families, retired businessmen--	8	95.00		692.48	1.00	788.48	98.56	5.6
TOTAL COST-----		\$3319.85	\$1908.50	\$8072.33	\$799.10	\$14099.78		
Average output for each kind of improvement-----		107.09	82.98	106.21	17.00			
Per cent of total spent for each kind of improvement-----		23.6	13.5	57.2	5.7	100.00		

SHELBY COUNTY IN WARTIME

Table VI. Amount and Percentage of the Expenditures for Home Improvement Which Was Made by Each Income Group

Occupational Classification	\$500-\$999		\$1000-\$1999		\$2000-\$2999		\$3000 and over		Did not state income		Totals	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
I-----	2	\$ 49.50	4	\$ 603.40	1	\$ 142.00	9	\$1208.50	1	\$450.00	17	\$ 2453.40
II-----			1	50.00	3	262.50	5	868.00			9	1180.50
III-----	1	23.00	8	1121.60	7	506.00	4	883.00	1		21	2533.60
IV-----	11	1247.60	7	644.80			2	472.80	2	10.00	22	2375.20
V-----	3	416.50	9	1262.10	4	1417.00	1		3	248.00	20	3343.60
VI-----	3	290.00	2								5	290.00
VII-----	2	525.00	1	550.00	1	50.00			1	10.00	5	1135.00
VIII-----	1	240.00	3	50.00	3	116.00	4	382.48	1		12	778.40
TOTALS -----	23	\$2791.60	35	\$4281.90	19	\$2493.50	25	\$3814.78	9	\$718.00	111	\$14099.78
Average output for ea. family-----		121.37		122.34		131.24		152.59		79.78		127.03
Percentage of total spent by each income group--		19.8		30.4		17.7		27.0		5.1		

materials; 33 could not get the necessary labor; 19 stated that they did not have the money or preferred to buy war bonds; 16 said they were doing the necessities only, while 8 felt there were no pressing needs at present. One interesting reason was given by the homemaker who was waiting to see what new materials will be on the market after the war. She is interested in plastics and glass brick.

Although the modernizing improvements were not extensive, the families gave logical reasons for not accomplishing more. In 31 cases, the families felt that their homes were up-to-date for the present, while in another 31 cases they said they did not have the money, 12 of these feeling that other needs were greater. Twenty-five said they could not get materials, and 20 could not get labor; 5 felt that they should not spend their money in this way in wartime; and 10 did not answer the question.

Of the 100 women who replied to the question about repairing, 44 said they were unable to get labor; 40 could not get the materials; 37 did not have the money, or did not want to spend it that way in wartime; 13 said that they had spent just enough to keep the property up during the emergency; and 9 said their homes were already in good repair.

When asked why they did not do more to the yards, 52, or 47 per cent, said they had neither the time to do the work themselves nor the money to pay the high wages to have it done. Even though they were willing to pay for it, 35 could not get the labor. A smaller number, 11, said they could not get materials; 7 felt they had done enough as they wanted the grounds simple.

Effect of Renting on Home Improvement

The 19 families who are renters gave this fact as a reason for not modernizing or making needed repairs to their homes. Ten other families have plans to build new homes when the war is over and so are doing a minimum of work on their old houses now.

After the War Plans

Remodeling Plans

Since people now are living busy lives and often only the essentials can be looked after, the women were asked what they plan to do to their homes after the war. Following are some of their housing plans for the future as revealed by their answers to the question.

Of the 65 families who plan to remodel their homes, 16 plan to remodel the kitchen and another 16 plan to build a new home; 14

want to add a new bathroom; 11 want to screen their porches; 8 want to build storage or linen closets; 6 in each case want to build and screen a new porch, or to build other rooms onto their houses; 1 family each plans to build a guest house over the garage or to make a playroom in the attic or to excavate and build a cement basement, or build a child's play house and workshop, or a garage and a car porte, or ceil the attic so that it can be used for storage. In 2 cases the family plans to make over one-half of the house into an apartment for rent.

Modernizing Plans

Modernizing plans for after the war are much like the plans that have already been stated. They mention 34 items as being greatly desired: 9 families want to equip bathrooms which are not now usable (this includes installing running water and fixtures in 5 cases, adding running water only in 2 others and installing fixtures in 2 others); 6 families want running water in the kitchen; 3 each want to put in a central heating system, to put in electricity, or to build new outdoor sanitary facilities; 2 families each expect to insulate the house, add another bathroom, or buy a new furnace; 1 each expects to finish up a basement and plaster the walls, to rewire the whole house and put in a sufficient number of floor plugs, or to dig a new well and have a pump. These improvements should contribute a great deal to family comfort and health.

Repairing Plans

When asked about repairing, more families were sure about what they wanted to do when normal times return than they were about any other kind of improvement. Suggesting some 166 items, 21 families want something done to the exterior of the house, either painting the house, painting the wood trim or pointing a brick house (renew cement between bricks), improvements which they think the cost of labor prohibits now; 52 want to re-decorate the interior of the house, 44 wanting to decorate walls, woodwork or floors, and 8 wanting the entire house fixed over; 10 want new screens, and 6 need a new roof. Other things such as the replacement of casement windows, Venetian blinds, repairing gutters and leaks, new outside stairs, and repairing the foundation of the house were mentioned 3 or 4 times each. Of the 25 families who rent their houses, 19 have no plans in mind to suggest to the landlord.

Yard Improvement

The plans for the improvement of the yard were not as extensive as the ones for the house. One-fifth of the total group (22) want

to improve the yard either by re-landscaping the neglected back yard or reorganizing the whole setting. About the same number were not quite as ambitious in plans, but they wish to add to the yard each year until it pleases them. Of those who plan improvements, 7 families want new walks and driveways, 6 wish to replace shrubs they have with more desirable ones, and 4 intend to have an outdoor living room. Others want to fence the back yard, put in a drainage system, build a trellis for flowers, plant flowers other than perennials, and build a barbecue pit.

The Value to the Family of Improvements Made or Planned

Value of Improving the Yard

There were over 100 different items mentioned in response to the question about the value to the family of having a beautiful yard. These responses were tabulated under three headings: value to the small child, value to youth, and value to the parents. People particularly wanted a yard as a playground for little children.

A well-planned yard is especially appreciated for its part in keeping older children at home and as a source of home interest for the boys. The following remarks were made time and again: "A well-planned yard will keep the older and teen-age children satisfied at home so that they can enjoy the family." "Yard furniture and croquet sets induce young people to stay at home." "Barbecue pits and outdoor living rooms suggest parties and cooking supper in the open, activities which appeal to young folks." "A place with facilities for games like badminton, basketball, croquet and baseball, and with a spotlight for night playing draws the young people and our children and their friends find fun at home." "When the family can plan together how to beautify the yard, they give the boys a chance to contribute to the upkeep of the home and to develop a feeling that it belongs to them."

The parents feel that the yard gives them a restful retreat in which to spend summer evenings together. Some in learning to root shrubbery and grow flowers have developed a pleasant avocation. Many of the older people have a feeling of civic responsibility as shown in such expressions as the following made in one way or another by one-third of the group: "A beautiful lawn, shrubs and flowers build morale, give personal satisfaction, add attractiveness to the home and furnish a beauty spot for the community to enjoy and be proud of."

When asked for a human interest story, there were many inter-

esting responses. One parent said of her yard: "It is a gathering place for my teen-age sons and their friends and they love to have parties and cook out, even in the winter. But the pleasure of our yard does not stop here. My married daughter borrows the yard for her parties and we enjoy seeing the young married group have fun. I entertain my church circle and club out here. My husband enjoys the cool restfulness in the evenings." This parent feels that the work done to her yard has opened up to her more avenues for family and community satisfactions than any one thing she has ever done.

Satisfactions Gained From Improvement Made in the House

About four-fifths of the women made some kind of reply to the question about the effect of the improvements made to the house on the family members. The satisfactions mentioned include easier housekeeping, greater sense of economic security, aesthetic satisfactions, improved family relationships, and pride in an attractive house, as illustrated in such remarks as these: "Housekeeping is easier and the home more comfortable," "We all enjoy a clean house," "It gives the spirit a lift."

Of these 111 homemakers, 44 per cent made some comment about family relationships, with such remarks as: adding a new screened porch eased some social problems; all the family love the house and help take care of it; the children enjoy having their friends visit them, for they have pride in the home; it is not such a problem now to keep the family together; each child decided on the color scheme and work to be done in his room, and now each feels the pride of ownership in the home. The sheer pleasure of living in a well-kept home was expressed by 19 per cent with such remarks as: it is very vitally stimulating; we are delighted over every improvement we make; it is an achievement we all enjoy; even the grandchildren enjoy everything we do; the personal satisfaction far exceeds the money spent on the improvements.

Summary and Conclusions

From this study of 111 Shelby County families, the following general conclusions may be drawn:

1. Families range in size from 1 to 12, but the most usual size is 4—husband, wife and 2 children.
2. Houses range in size from 2 to 11 rooms, but more than half of these families live in six-room houses.
3. Though 91 families live in homes large enough to provide one or more rooms per person, 14 families live in homes which do not

have adequate space. In general the large families are not as adequately housed as the families of fewer members.

4. Three-fourths of these families own their own homes. There seems to be little relation between economic status and home ownership. In no economic group do less than two-thirds of the families own their homes.

5. Three-fourths of the family heads in the different groups earn less than \$3000 per year. The largest number of families are in the \$1000 to \$1999 income group.

6. No family earns less than it did before the war; 55 per cent of the families have the same income in 1944 that they had in 1940, and 45 per cent have had increases in income in this period. Income increases, on the whole, have not been great, averaging about 15 per cent for all except the farm families, whose incomes have increased much more. The increased income for the farm group is due both to increases in farm prices and to the fact that many farmers have taken war jobs in addition to their farming.

7. Increase in income does not seem to lead to a greater amount of home improvement; while 84 per cent of the whole group (111 families) made some kind of home improvement, only 38 per cent of the group reporting increased income spent anything extra on housing. While nearly one-half of these families have more money to spend than they had before the war, only one-fourth of them have spent more than formerly on housing.

8. The average expenditure per family for home improvements in the different income levels shows a gradual but small rise toward the larger income groups, but the difference between the average amount spent in the lowest and that in the highest income group is only \$30.

9. The total outlay of money for improvements to the home, including remodeling, modernizing, repairing and beautifying the yard, was \$14,099.78. The largest amount was spent for repairing, 57 per cent of the total amount being used for this purpose. Remodeling cost 23.6 per cent of the total amount spent; modernizing accounted for 13.5 per cent, and yard improvement 5.7 per cent. The largest amount spent by any one family was \$767; 8 families spent over \$300 each, but more often the cost per family was around \$100. The average expenditure per family was \$151.61.

10. The amount of income did affect the type of work done to improve the home. The lower income groups have made, and wish to make in the future, the types of improvements that give modern

conveniences and make living easier, while the higher income groups already have these conveniences. Groups in the lower levels want to put in electricity, add running water and necessary fixtures to the bathroom and kitchen, have more storage space, more privacy for the family members and better out-door toilet facilities. The higher income groups want an extra bathroom, central heating system, insulation for the house, rewiring the house to have more outlets, a guest house built over the garage, a play room and hobby rooms. A larger percentage of the lower income groups modernized and remodeled their homes and a larger percentage of the higher income groups repaired the homes. While only 42 per cent spent money on the improvement of the yard, 68 per cent specified that they did necessary work to keep the grounds presentable. Only one-half of the families attempted any organized plan of landscaping the yards.

11. The farm families did more modernizing of their homes than any other group. Fifty per cent improved the sanitation and comfort of their homes. They did not spend more money per family than other groups, but more families made improvements. The minor business and semi-skilled group made almost as many improvements as the farm group, and they were similar types of improvements.

12. Only 6 families did all 4 types of improvement. Forty-one per cent did 1 type; 36.5 per cent did 2 types; and 16 per cent did 3 types of improvements.

13. The work of home improvement was done by hired help and by various combinations of family members. More family help was used in home repairing and care of the yard, while more hired help was required for remodeling and modernizing the home.

What these families seek to do is to raise their standards of living, to give themselves a few comforts they have always wanted, and to provide wholesome home life for their children.

The types of improvements they have made show the kinds of things they hold worthwhile and their comments indicate that they have secured, in large measure, the satisfactions that they sought. There seems to be no dearth of ideas for better living in Shelby County.

The homes, we see, provide both tangible and emotional satisfactions. Children's welfare seemed to be of prime importance in all housing plans. Homes were improved more often for the sake of family relationships than for the convenience of housework. Fellowship in the home, which teaches its members how to live with others, seemed to be an outstanding objective. Many women, referring to

the work done, said that the improvements give the children pride in the home, that it is no trouble to keep the family at home, and that the children enjoy keeping the home attractive. Even the grandchildren seemed to enjoy the improvements made. All of these results seem to show the close relationship between the home and the personalities developing within it.

Ownership of the home gives the children security. Remodeling the home gives more space and privacy for its members. Better hygienic measures are a contribution to health. Repairing was done not only to protect the house but to develop an appreciation for cleanliness, beauty and order, all of which affect personality. The mothers feel that a beautiful home makes the children happy and proud to have their friends visit them.

The children enjoy helping in the home or caring for the ward after improvements are made. Respect for work is built up in children who share in home jobs. They learn cooperation and develop maturity of character which is essential to adult success and happiness. A feeling of accomplishment and competency gives them great satisfaction. Provisions for recreation, which loosens tension and provides relief from strain, were mentioned numbers of times as one means of enriching personality. Playing together helps to socialize the children. Safety measures in the home, which will relieve anxiety and prevent injury, were recognized by parents who made repairs to steps, floors, chimneys, graded yards, and built fences. Sharing in plans for home improvement teaches children to make choices and helps them to discover what are the lasting pleasures and highest values of life. In fact, nearly every item of improvement does in some way affect the physical and emotional growth of the home members.

CHAPTER 2

HOUSE FURNISHINGS IMPROVEMENTS IN SHELBY
COUNTY HOMES*The Problem*

This study was made to determine, if possible, the extent to which Shelby County families, during the period from December 1941 to August 1944—a period in which many families in the county had more money to spend than formerly—were spending money and effort on improvements in house furnishings. The investigator sought to answer the following questions:

What kinds of improvements in house furnishings have been made in this period? Did families whose incomes had increased during this period tend to make more or different kinds of improvements from those without increases in their incomes? What reasons do these people give for the improvements they have made? Do the reasons differ for families who have had increased incomes and those who have not?

*Collecting the Data**The population studied*

Data were collected during the summer of 1944 from 108 families. Included in the study were families representing most of the occupations of the county—doctors, lawyers, public school teachers, college professors, merchants, bankers, cafe managers, lumbermen, contractors, store clerks, bookkeepers, textile workers, barbers, insurance agents, farmers, federal, state, and county employees. There were a few families of widows and of disabled veterans. The largest groups were the farmers and the textile workers.

Families ranged in size from 1 to 14, the most usual being 3. There were families in each of the main income classifications (up to \$500; \$500-\$1999; \$2000-\$2999; \$3000 or over), but the majority of them had incomes around \$2000. Sixty-seven (62 per cent) of the 108 families in the study had had some increase in income within the period; 41 (38 per cent) had had no change in income,

and no one in the group reported a decrease in earnings since the war began.

The questionnaire

Data were secured by means of a check sheet which, in addition to questions about occupation, size of family, income status, and income change, had questions regarding the improvements in home furnishings. A preliminary study of home furnishings determined the items listed on the check sheet. Each room, living room, dining room, bedroom, kitchen, bath, porch, and the lawn were considered separately. All items listed received at least one check except tea wagons, hollow silver, bathroom stools, and porch gliders. The preliminary exploration led the investigator to believe that most home furnishings were bought for one of four reasons, namely: (1) to satisfy a long-felt desire; (2) merely to afford a welcome change; (3) to replace worn-out items; (4) to increase the comfort of the home. Frequently, homemakers improve the home through their own ingenuity. This factor was allowed for on the check sheet through questions on remodeling and repairing of old furniture and making slip covers or curtains.

Presentation of the Data

Believing that an increase in money tends to influence people to make purchases not essential to living, comparisons were made of improvements made by families who had had increased income during the period of the study and those who had not. These two groups are referred to in the following discussion as the A—"increased", and B—"non-increased" groups.

Tables I, II, III, IV, V at the end of this chapter, pp. 60 to 66, show the results of the investigation and are organized so that comparisons may readily be observed.

New furniture purchased

Very little new furniture was bought by these 108 families in the period between December 1941 and August 1944. (See Table I.) Items most commonly purchased were chairs, davenports or studio couches, tables, beds, mattresses and bed springs, and "suites" of furniture for one or the other rooms of the house. More different families provided extra "seating space" than any other item of furniture—41 in all purchased either dining room or living room chairs, a davenport or studio couch, besides the 23 families who purchased

a living room, dining room, or bedroom "suite." Tables were next in importance, 14 families having bought living room tables, and 5 families night tables for the bedroom. Twenty-eight different families bought either a mattress or set of springs or both.

Most of these purchases were made "because additional items were needed." The next most important reason for making purchases of new furniture was that of "a long-felt desire" or "being tired of what we have"; whereas the fewest families gave as their reason, "replacement of worn-out furniture."

By far the greatest number of purchases of new furniture were made by group A—the group whose income had increased during the period.

Improving backgrounds

The addition of such items as rugs, draperies, window curtains, or venetian blinds is referred to as "improving backgrounds." (See Table II.) More families made this type of improvement than purchased new furniture. Practically all families did something to the windows, and almost half purchased a rug for one or more rooms of the house.

The need for additional items and the replacement of worn-out items were given in about the same number of cases as reasons for purchases; while almost no one improved the background because of "being tired of old things" or having "always wanted" something.

Just as in the case of new furniture purchased, more families (almost five times as many, in fact) of the increased income group than those of the non-increased income group made improvements.

Bedding, household linens, dishes and silver

More families purchased new household linens and bedding than any other item of house furnishings. (See Table III.) New sheets were purchased by 43 families; pillow cases by 29; blankets, 23; spreads, 28; and "covers" by 8.

Twice as many families bought sheets and pillow cases to replace worn-out items as did to add to the numbers they had on hand. All of the homemakers bought sheets for one or the other of these two reasons. More than twice as many families in group A, the increased income group, bought sheets, as in group B, the non-increased income group. The same is true for most bedding items.

As many as 39 families bought new table cloths, while only 16 bought new napkins. This greater demand for table cloths is a bit

surprising and suggests a number of possible explanations—that table cloths may be used more and thus wear out more quickly; that paper napkins, or possibly no napkins, are used to save the linens and the laundry. The fact that 4 of the table cloths were made of oilcloth, may account for some of the differences in numbers of table cloths and napkins purchased. Most of these table cloths (in 25 cases) were bought to replace worn-out items, and 25 of the 39 families buying table cloths were in the increased income group.

Very few families purchased china, glass, or silver during this period. The desire to add to the numbers already on hand accounted for most of these purchases by the increased income group, while the non-increased group bought chiefly for replacements.

Accessories

Purchases of accessories—lamps, pictures, mirrors, vases, and the like (see Table IV) were made primarily because new items were needed, although the “long-felt desire” or being “tired of what we have” figured more conspicuously in this type of purchase than in any other, accounting for purchases of new items by 10 families. Of the 38 families who purchased new accessories, 31 were in the increased income group.

Improvements through remodeling and repairing

In addition to the new furniture purchased, improvements were made to 105 homes by repairing and remodeling (See Table V). In 19 homes, slip covers had been made; 8 homes had had some upholstery work done; 39 homes had painted furniture; 39 homes had made draperies or curtains. (This does not include the ready-made curtains or draperies purchased. See page 63.) In the non-increased group, 7 had made slip covers, 4 had furniture re-upholstered, 14 had furniture painted, and 10 had made curtains or draperies. In the increased income group, 12 had made new slip covers; 4 had provided re-upholstery items; 25 had painted furniture, and 29 had made curtains or draperies.

More families in the increased income group made slip covers than did those in the non-increased group. However, re-upholstery work was done more frequently by families in the non-increased income group. More painting and making of curtains was done by the increased income group than by the other.

*Other Interesting Points Revealed by the Study**Living rooms get most attention*

A greater variety and larger number of purchases (24 different items) were made for the living room than for any other room in the house, although families in the non-increased income group did much less than the others. New furniture and curtains figured most in these improvements, the latter chiefly as replacements. This suggests that families take most interest in their living rooms. Possibly fewer items were needed to make the dining rooms comfortable and efficient.

Conspicuous consumption is a motive

Why do individuals tire of home furnishings? Because they were not satisfied at the time of the purchase? Because their taste has changed? Because they want what their neighbors own?

Women said new purchases were made because "they were needed," but there was some evidence that the desire to have what their neighbors owned influenced the kind of purchases made. This influence was more apparent in purchases for the living room than for other rooms, perhaps because other people see the living room. This explanation is suggested by remarks of local retail furniture dealers who say that people in certain communities and of certain occupational groups buy one type of furniture, while others select an entirely different kind. This influence is found in homes where a large modern bedroom suite and a heavy velour living room suite are crowded into one room. Such arrangements might indicate that individuals do not recognize the difference in their needs and their desires. Do they unconsciously hope to advertise their improved financial status by the ownership of furniture which gives the appearance of being costly? There is also the possibility that the houses are too small for the number of people living in them, thus requiring that living rooms be used also as bedrooms. The manager of a furniture store whose customers come from the mining and rural areas stated that he has had the same volume of business since Pearl Harbor as before, although he cannot get wool rugs, washing machines, radios, or stoves. He had had one 18th Century style mahogany veneer bedroom suite on the floor for six months, which he had not been able to sell, but he had sold ten suites of gum furniture of modernistic design in that time. Both kinds of suites were the same price. The suite most in demand was made in a large mod-

ernistic design with very ornate mirrors and pulls on the drawers. It was popularly called "Bleached maple" and cost over twice as much as the 18th Century mahogany veneer model. According to one retail merchant, some of his customers who live in old, poorly-built houses buy mattresses that are not tufted and without rolled edges, because a mattress finished in that manner affords hiding places for bed bugs.

Improvements for the sake of beauty

In improving the beauty of the home, housewives again gave more attention to the living room. Pictures, mirrors, vases, what-nots, venetian blinds, draperies, and rugs were added to the living room. Only pictures, venetian blinds, and rugs were added to the dining room. (See Tables II and IV.) Almost three times as many pictures and twice as many rugs were added to the living room as were added to the dining room.

Comfort and convenience

Some of the items purchased that contributed to the comfort and convenience of the home were circulating heaters, electric refrigerators, hot water tanks, and washing machines. Over 11 per cent of the families were able to buy electric refrigerators; some reporting buying second-hand ones, and others pre-Pearl Harbor models.

More families bought pictures, mirrors, and rugs than lamps, but lamps were added to the living rooms in about 5 per cent of the homes. They may have been added to improve the appearance of the room, but they doubtless also improved lighting.

Large amount of improvement made

Some home management specialists in proposed family budgets allow 2 per cent of the income for house furnishings. On this basis, a family having a \$2,000 income, which was the average for the group studied, would have \$40 a year to spend on house furnishings. Though no attempt was made to determine the amount spent for the improvements reported in this study, it is apparent, prices being what they are, that improvements made in the homes have in many instances cost more than that figure. For example, an acceptable pair of curtains is likely to cost at least \$5. The purchase of

curtains alone (See Table II) would account for a considerable outlay of money. It is rather gratifying to observe that, even during a war period, when items are not available or are of inferior quality and construction, people are interested in their homes and make some attempt to improve them.

Post-War Needs

No attempt was made to determine the plans the families have for additions to their homes in the post-war period, but a brief observation of the report shows quite a pent-up demand for linens of all types. Only 37 per cent of the people purchased sheets; the range in number of these bought was from 2 to 24. Only 25 per cent of the homemakers purchased pillow cases; from 2 to 24 pairs were bought by each of them. There were 38 per cent of the families who bought towels; 24 per cent bought hand towels; 35 per cent bought bath cloths. The homes may be sufficiently supplied with these to last until the war is over, but as they are essentials for homemaking, many of these will be needed after the war. It is also possible that a great many sheets are made from feed sacks. One homemaker said she never bought sheets or pillow cases, but used feed sacks. She said, "They wear well for working men and growing children, and if you get pretty spreads for your beds, the house looks nice."

Since only 12 per cent of the families bought mattresses, and 13 per cent bed springs, and such items as these also need occasional replacements, there should be a demand for these after the war.

Summary

Of the total number of 108 families reporting, 93 families bought new furnishings for 292 different rooms. Of these, 203 rooms were improved by the group with increased income, an average of 3 rooms per family; 89 rooms were improved by the group with no income increase, an average of about 2 rooms per family. In addition to room improvement, 4 of the 67 families in the increased income group purchased furniture for lawns and 5 for porches, while 1 of the 41 families in the non-increased income group purchased porch furniture. Many of the families who purchased new furnishings also did remodeling; 3 families with increased income did nothing but remodeling, while 12 of the 108 families made no improvements whatsoever, 11 of these being families with no income increase.

Table I. New Furniture Bought by 108 Families—1941-1944

Number of families in Groups A and B making purchases and reasons given											
Item purchased	Personal satisfaction*		New items needed		Replacements		No reason given		Totals		
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	(67 families) A	(41 families) B	(108 families) All
Living room:											
Suite-----	4		2		1				7		7
Desks-----	3		1			1			4	1	5
Radio-----	4		1		3	1		2	8	3	11
Chairs-----	1		12	3	4		2	1	19	4	23
Davenport or studio couch-----	1		5	2	4	1			10	3	13
Piano-----	1	2							1	2	3
Table-----	1		8	1	3	1			12	2	14
Book case-----			1						1		1
Magazine racks-----	2		1		1				4		4
Circulating heater-----				1						1	1
What-not-----	1	2		1	1	1			2	4	6
Dining room:											
Suite-----	1		3		1	2			5	2	7
Table-----			3		1	1			4	1	5
Chairs-----	1		3		1	1			5	1	6
Buffet-----					1				1		1
China cabinet-----		1	1		1				2	1	3
Bedroom:											
Magazine racks-----					1				1		1
Suite-----	2		4	1	1	1			7	2	9
Beds-----	2		8	2	2		2		14	2	16
Night table-----	2		1		2				5		5
Wardrobe-----				1						1	1
Dresser-----					1				1		1

Chest of drawers-----	1	4	1	3	1	9	1	10
Chairs-----	1	3	4	1	1	9	1	9
Vanity-----	1	2	1	1	1	5	1	6
Cedar chest-----		1	1			1	1	2
Bed springs-----	1	3	2	4	5	13	2	15
Mattresses-----		6	2	3	1	10	3	13

Kitchen:

Hot water heater-----		1		1		2	1	2
Waffle iron-----					1		3	1
Hot plate-----		1	1	1	2	2	3	5
Electric refrigerator-----	4	1	3	2	1	9	2	12
Ice refrigerator-----		1	1	4	1	6	2	8
Washing machine-----	1		2	1		2	2	4
Electric irons-----	2	1		2	1	6	1	7
Electric stoves-----		2	1	3		5	1	6
Gas stove-----					1		1	1
Wood stove-----		1		7	2	8	2	10
Coal stove-----		2		2		5		5
Toaster-----			1	1	1	1	2	3
Kerosene stove-----	2	2	2	3	1	7	3	10
Electric Mixer-----	1					1		1

Bathroom:

Laundry hamper-----	1	2				2	1	3
---------------------	---	---	--	--	--	---	---	---

Porch and lawn:

Table-----		1				1		1
Swing-----	1	4			1	5	1	6
Lawn chair-----	1	4		1		6		6

*Since so few families gave as reasons "long-felt desire" or "afford a welcome change," these replies were summarized on the tables under "personal satisfaction."

The 292 improved rooms were distributed among the families as follows: in 15 homes, purchases were made for 5 different rooms; in 24 homes, for 4 rooms each; 24 other homes, for 3 rooms each; 18 homes had made purchases for 2 rooms each; and 13 for 1 room each.

There was no relation between the number of rooms improved in a home and the number and value of purchases made.

More families bought household textiles than other items. Curtains were bought for 68 rooms. As curtains and rugs may be used in every room in the house, this is probably what one would expect to find.

The data seem to warrant the conclusion that many families were enabled by the increase in the family income to make needed improvements in home furnishings.

The need for replacing worn-out items were the most usual reasons for making improvements in house furnishings. The greatest amount of interest was taken in making improvements to the living room.

**Table II. Backgrounds—Draperies, Rugs, Wall Finishes, Venetian Blinds
Purchased by 108 Families—1941-1944**

Number of families in Groups A and B making purchases and reasons given											
Item purchased	Personal satisfaction		New items needed		Replacements		No reason given		Totals		
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	(67 families)		(108 families)
									A	B	
Living room:											
Rugs-----	2		8		6		3	1	19	1	20
Shades-----			8		3	1			11	1	12
Glass curtains-----			3	1	9	4	2		14	5	19
Venetian blinds-----	1		2		1				3	1	4
Drapes-----			1		3		1	1	5	1	6
Dining room:											
Rugs-----			3		5	2			8	2	10
Venetian blinds-----	2		2		10			1	14		14
Curtains-----			1		6	1			7	2	9
Bedroom:											
Rugs-----	2		11	1	4	4	2	1	19	5	25
Shades-----					1	1			1	1	2
Curtains-----			11		12	3	2		25	3	28
Bathroom:											
Curtains-----			3		2	1	2		7	1	8
Shower curtains-----			1		1	2			2	2	4
Kitchen:											
Rug-----					2				2		2

Table IV. Accessories Purchased by 108 Families—1941-1944

Item purchased	Number of families in Groups A and B making purchases and reasons given								Totals			
	Personal satisfaction		New items needed		Replacements		No reason given		(67 families)	(41 families)	(108 families)	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	All	
Living room:												
Book ends-----												
Lamps-----				1								1
Pictures-----				5		1						7
Mirrors-----	4	1		5		1						11
Clock-----	3	1		3		1		1				9
Vases-----				1								1
	1			3		1						5
Bedroom:												
Lamps-----												
Pictures-----				2		2	1					5
Mirrors-----				1		1						2
Dresser scarfs-----				1		3						4
				3	1	5	2	1			3	12
Dining room:												
Pictures-----	1	1				2						4

**Table V. Number of Families in Groups A and B Improving Homes by
Repairing and Remodeling Home Furnishings .**

	A	B	Totals
Slip covers-----	12	7	19
Re-upholstery work-----	4	4	8
Furniture painted-----	25	14	39
Made drapes or curtains-----	29	10	39
			105

CHAPTER 3

SMALL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

Small kitchen equipment is important in the home because of its evident relationship to the vital problem of food preparation. Probably no other tasks are performed with greater frequency in the home than those associated with feeding the family. The success of this undertaking helps to determine not only the health of the family but also some of its subtle relationships which might be grouped under the term "morale."

Small kitchen equipment has importance in the satisfaction it gives its user. Individuals may achieve happiness through creative activity. Even routine tasks have possibilities for creative expression if emphasis is placed on the processes of doing, that is, the methods and means of performing the job. Just as a craftsman derives pleasure from the manipulation and care of his tools, so may a housewife enjoy her cooking utensils. The importance of small kitchen equipment has been further enhanced by many studies indicating that the use of proper tools in meal preparation results in great savings of time and energy.

While there have been numerous studies as to the kind of equipment which would be desirable for the homemaker, there have been few surveys to show the kind and amount of equipment actually used by homemakers. We do not know to what extent recommendations of home economists are used nor do we know what practices of the homemaker differ from laboratory findings. It appears that kitchen utensils have failed to receive the attention which has been accorded other labor-saving devices.

Purpose of Survey

It is evident that the war has affected our supply of small kitchen equipment. One of the first indications of a decrease in civilian supplies in Shelby County was the disappearance of aluminum and other metal cooking utensils from the stores. Later a variety of enamel, glass, plastic, and wooden utensils appeared. Many of these were entirely new to the local homemakers, and their potentialities were generally not known. The present survey was made in an attempt to answer three questions: What equipment did homemakers own at the time of the study? How satisfactory was recently purchased equipment? What plans were housewives making for purchasing equipment after the war?

Collecting information

One hundred and twenty-three housewives assisted in this survey. Information was obtained from 56 farm families, 51 town families, and 16 families who are clients of the Farm Security Administration. A check list of utensils was adapted from several lists of equipment recommended for all types of homes. The equipment was grouped according to use: utensils for top-of-stove cooking, those used for oven cooking, those needed in the preparation of food, and cutlery. Housewives were asked to list the materials from which the utensils were made and to indicate whether they were purchased before or since the war began. Spaces were provided for housewives to register equipment which they owned but which was not listed.

The table found at the end of this chapter tabulates the total number of utensils found in 123 homes. It does not show the wide variation in the equipment of individual families. For the most part, Farm Security clients had fewer pieces than the families in the town and farm groups. The families in the town and farm groups were strikingly alike in the number and kind of utensils found in their homes. In the following descriptions of equipment found in these groups, the term *average* refers to the arithmetical average for the group.

Top-of-stove cooking

In many homes the largest portion of the cooking takes place on top of the stove. The average number of pieces of top-of-the-stove equipment in the farm homes was 13 with a range of 5 to 30. A ten-inch iron skillet, a two-quart saucepan, usually of enamel, and a coffeepot were found in every home.

With the town group, the range in the number of pieces for cooking on top of the stove was from 2 to 26 with an average of 12 pieces per family. Two-thirds of the families had double boilers and almost one-half had teapots. Iron skillets were again the most frequently found pieces of equipment. One-quart and two-quart saucepans were found in an equal number of homes. Aluminum pans were more popular than enameled ones. The family which had only two pieces of equipment owned a saucepan and a skillet.

The range of equipment for the Farm Security families was 3 to 14 pieces with an average of 7. They had more skillets than other utensils. They owned 35 skillets. This was a sufficient number to make an average of over 2 for each family, while the number of saucepans, kettles, and double boilers averaged only 1 per family.

Three-fourths of the families had coffeemakers, but only one family had a teapot.

Oven cooking

Since the oven is used for many different purposes, there was a wide variety of utensils included in this group, but the total number was approximately the same as that found for top-of-the-stove cooking. The range in the number of pieces of the farm group was from 1 to 34 with an average of 11. The family which had only 1 utensil owned a bread pan. Tin pie pans were the utensils owned by the largest group of people. About three-fourths of the families had cake pans, baking pans, or bread pans. The most popular shape for the cake pan was round with relatively few oblong or square shapes. Two-thirds of the families had muffin pans, usually of tin. Three-fifths had casseroles and roasters. The casseroles were most often glass, and the roasters were most often made of enamel.

One family living in town had only 2 oven utensils; another family had 33, but the average was 12 for the group. A few more custard cups and casseroles were found in this group than in the farm group. There were, however, a smaller number of bread and baking pans listed. Pie pans and cake pans averaged over one to a family, but only 90 per cent of the families had pie tins and 85 per cent had cake tins.

The number of oven cooking utensils for the Farm Security clients ranged from 3 to 13 with an average of 8. Four-fifths of them had pie tins, muffin pans, cake tins, and either a baking pan or a bread pan. One-third of the group had casseroles.

Utensils used in preparation

There were wider differences in the number of utensils used in the preparation of food than in any other group. The range for the farm group was 9 to 52 pieces with an average of 23. Ninety-five per cent of these homes had mixing bowls. Two- and three-quart earthen bowls were the most popular kind. All had salt and pepper shakers, most of them having more than one set. Likewise can openers and scissors were found in all of the homes. Ninety per cent had flour sifters. Most of the equipment listed was found in 50 to 75 per cent of the homes. However, only one-sixth had blenders, cooling racks, and sets of four measuring cups. One-tenth had thermometers. One-fifth had ladles and only 2 homes had nut choppers and tea balls.

Many tools on the market which have specialized functions in food preparation were not included in the list. The town group lists 31 of these, such as cookie presses, egg slicers, etc. The number of pieces found in town homes ranged from 2 to 75 with an average of 29 pieces per family. Every home had a can opener, and some homes had more than one. They usually were the hand kind, although the wall variety was found in one-fourth of these homes. The next most frequently found equipment were sifters, rolling pins, and biscuit cutters. Most of the equipment listed was found in one-half to three-fourths of the homes. However, pressure cookers, ice cream freezers, and molds were found in only a third of the homes. About one-sixth of the homes had blenders, rubber spatulas, thermometers, nut crackers, and tea balls. About one-fifth or more had cake coolers and sink strainers. Ten per cent had cream dippers and butter cutters. All but the lowest income group had strainers; the three-inch size was the most popular. Rotary beaters were found twice as often as were wire whisks. The urban group had twice as many molds as the farm group, while the farm group had more ice cream freezers.

The range of equipment owned by the Farm Security clients for meal preparation was from 3 to 24 pieces with an average of 14. Mixing bowls and flour sifters were found in all homes. All but one family had a pressure cooker. A combination grater and shredder was found in most homes. Fifty per cent of the families had ice cream freezers, rolling pins, rotary beaters, tea kettles, and can openers. Sink strainers, wall can openers, nut crackers, cream dippers, cooling racks, molds, and blenders were not found in these homes.

Cutlery

It has been estimated that a housewife uses a knife 130 times per day. Probably no other kitchen piece excels the knife in usability. The range in the number of pieces of cutlery owned by the farm group was 2 to 45 with an average of 17 pieces. Many families had 2 or 3 paring knives, but one-tenth of the group did not have a knife with a blade shorter than ten inches. Almost all had tablespoons and teaspoons for cooking. Two-thirds of the families had measuring spoons. Seventy-five per cent had long forks; but less than one-third had apple corers, spatulas, potato peelers, and grapefruit knives.

Every town family had a paring knife. Seventy-five per cent had long forks and measuring spoons. All had some kind of kitchen

knives and forks, but one-tenth of the families had no knife with a blade smaller than eight inches, although many families had two or three small ones. Forty per cent had large spoons, either wooden or metal. The range of the number of pieces owned by individual families was from 2 to 45 with an average of 24. About two-thirds of the families had measuring spoon sets while only one-fourth had spatulas.

Relation of size of family to number of utensils owned

The number of individuals found in each of the families studied varied from 2 to 12, but families of 4 members were most frequently found. Several of the homemakers had all the equipment listed but did not always have all sizes of mixing bowls and casseroles. But, on the other hand, they often had more than one of some of the utensils. There was no relationship between the number and kind of cooking utensils owned and the size of the family. The largest collections of cooking utensils were sometimes found in a small family group. The housewife with the largest number of pieces cooked for a family of three. She was the wife of a businessman and had two kitchens in her home; one was used for meal preparation and the other for special jobs such as food preparation, sausage making, and special baking. The family having the smallest number was also a town family of three, which owned one iron kettle, one enameled pan, one skillet, one coffeemaker, one baking pan, one flour sifter, one can opener, a pair of scissors, two paring knives, an eight-inch knife, two case knives and forks, and an eighteen-inch fork.

Desirability of new materials

A very small percentage of equipment found in this survey has been purchased since the war. About 98 per cent was of pre-war origin. Therefore, the housewives' experience with plastic and other substitute materials was limited to very few pieces. Among the complaints offered were that plastic spoons, graters, etc., would not stand hot water, and that ceramic ware was slow and cumbersome for cooking. They thought that glass has many desirable features such as cleanliness and visibility of product, but breakage was high from various causes. Several complained that recently purchased enamel ware chipped readily.

Prospective purchases

As to prospective purchases after the war, the majority of the housewives were satisfied with their present equipment and were

not contemplating many purchases after the end of the war. A few women indicated that they would buy additional aluminum utensils when the war is over. One woman stated that she would like an "all-glass" kitchen. Kitchen equipment appears to be durable and not subject to the whims of sales appeal, which influence many other household purchases.

Typical equipment

After the equipment which occurred most frequently had been counted, it was assumed that typical equipment of the housewife in Shelby County, regardless of the size of her family or of her husband's occupation, would probably be as follows:

Top of stove: Four saucepans—1-quart, 2-quart, 3-quart, and 4-quart sizes; a 4-quart kettle; 2 pans—a 1-pint and a 3-pint; a 2½-quart double boiler; and 2 skillets—8 and 10 inches in size; a 6-cup coffeemaker; and a teapot.

Oven cooking: A 2-quart casserole; 3 custard cups; a 12-inch baking sheet; a muffin pan; a round cake pan, size 9 inches in diameter; a bread pan; a baking pan, size 12 by 16 inches; a pie pan; and a roaster 16 inches long.

Preparation: Three mixing bowls—a 1-pint, a 2-quart, and a 4-quart; a 1-cup measure; a 1-quart sifter; a 12-inch rolling pin; a 1½-inch biscuit cutter; a rotary beater; 2 molds; a hand can opener; a bottle opener; a 3-inch strainer; a combination grater and shredder; a masher; 2 salt shakers; 2 pepper shakers; scissors; and a pan for preparing vegetables.

Cutlery: Three paring knives with a 2½-inch blade, 4 or 5-inch blade, and an 8-inch blade; a carving knife; 4 case knives and 4 case forks; and 3 teaspoons and 3 tablespoons for cooking.

Implications of the survey

The findings of the survey suggest the following implications for home economists and homemakers:

1. Considering the wide variation in number and types of kitchen utensils found in Shelby County homes, it appears that home economists might well devote some time and energy to a study of basic needs.
2. At present the best guide for selection would be based on those utensils which are required to prepare, cook, and serve the menus most commonly prepared in the homes. This plan gives consideration to differences which may arise in size of families, their interests, and their social activities.
3. The experiences of homemakers on the job may be suggestive to teachers and other homemakers in checking the adequacy of prospective purchases or of a supply already on hand.
4. Home economists have a responsibility for working with manufacturers and consumers to determine and plan for new types of equipment and improvements.

Utensils Used for Cooking on Top of Stove

Utensils	Farm	Farm	Security	Town
Saucepans:				
1 qt.-----	69		11	74
2 qt.-----	79		16	58
3 qt. (with dipping basket)-----	15			16
3 qt. (deep)-----	34		11	23
4 qt.-----	33		3	30
Other size saucepans-----				1
Kettles:				
4 qt.-----	38		2	37
6 qt.-----	19		2	19
6 qt. (with steamer inset)-----	11			13
Other size kettles-----	3			4
Pans:				
1 pt.-----	24		6	40
3 qt.-----	54		6	35
Other size pans-----	10			4
Double boilers:				
2½ qt.-----	39		3	36
4 qt.-----	15			9
Other size double boilers-----	1			4
Skillets:				
10 in. diameter-----	81		16	72
8 in. diameter-----	65		18	58
Other size skillets-----	11		5	18
Coffeemakers:				
10 cup-----	20		1	14
6 cup-----	40		8	34
Other size coffeemakers-----	10		3	10
Teapot-----	37		1	29
Other utensils-----	12			14

Utensils Used for Oven Cooking

Utensils	Farm	Farm	Security	Town
Casserole:				
2 qt.-----	34		1	37
1½ qt.-----	20		3	27
Custard cups-----	131		7	149
Baking sheets:				
12 in.-----	36		8	35
16 in.-----	15		5	20
Muffin pans, 8 small or medium cups--	66		7	59
Other muffin pans-----	8		3	2
Cake pans:				
Round, 9 in. diameter-----	66		9	72
Square, 9 in. x 9 in.-----	11		3	19
Oblong, 8½ in. x 3½ in.-----	11		3	18
Bread pans, single loaf-----	41		8	31
Pie pans, 9 in. diameter-----	93		22	75
Baking pan, 12 in. x 16 in.-----	34		8	27
Roaster, 16 in. long-----	34			30
Other utensils-----	10		4	14
Other cake pans-----			5	
Other roaster pans-----	4		1	5

Utensils Used in the Preparation of Food

Utensils	Farm	Farm Security	Town
Mixing Bowl:			
1 pt.-----	34		33
1½ qt.-----	14	1	15
1 qt.-----	28	3	29
2 qt.-----	36	5	35
3 qt.-----	28	6	21
4 qt.-----	26	1	29
7 qt.-----	6		4
Wooden chopping bowl-----	12	3	12
1 cup measure-----	35	8	39
Set of four measuring cups-----	9	1	11
1 qt. measure-----	12	1	12
1 qt. sifter-----	51	16	44
Blender-----	10		10
12 in. rolling pin-----	42	11	45
1½ in. biscuit cutter-----	27	6	34
2¼ in. biscuit cutter-----	13	1	13
Cooling racks, 11 in. x 11 in.-----	11		13
Rotary beater-----	45	11	46
Small beater-----	11		8
Wire whisk-----	17	5	21
Rubber spatula-----	7	1	8
Molds-----	43		92
Food grinder-----	28	6	28
Ladle-----	11		15
Tea ball-----	2	1	9
Nutcracker-----	26	3	28
Nut chopper-----	2		4
Thermometer-----	55	1	9
Pressure cooker-----	26	15	18
Ice cream freezer-----	22	7	14
Tea kettle-----	33	10	24
Hand can opener-----	61	11	65
Wall can opener-----	10		13
Juice extractor-----	29	1	32
Bottle opener-----	35	6	41
3 in. strainer-----	25	1	27
6 in. strainer-----	20	4	20
12 in. colander-----	26	3	23
6 in. sieve with roller-----	6		11
Combination grater			
and shredder-----	37	10	42
Masher-----	42	3	41
Salt shaker-----	101	14	80
Pepper shaker-----	90	14	79
Butter cutter-----	20		21
Scissors-----	67	19	62
Cream dipper-----	7		5
Pan for preparing vegetables-----	52	3	48
Sink strainer-----	7		11
Other utensils-----	4	8	31

Cutlery

Utensils	Farm	Farm	Security	Town
Knives:				
2½ in. blade paring knife-----	55		10	64
Slicing knife				
4 in. to 5 in. blade-----	46		2	40
8 in. blade-----	17			22
8 in. blade chopping knife-----	11			12
7 in. blade utility knife-----	13		17	17
Carving knife-----	20		1	23
Grapefruit knife-----	4			7
Apple parer and corer-----	16		1	19
Potato parer-----	8			14
Case knives-----	158		34	223
Case forks-----	172		25	235
10 in. fork-----	32		2	21
18 in. fork-----	29			30
Teaspoons for cooking-----	140		11	186
Tablespoons for cooking-----	118		8	160
Measuring spoon sets-----	37		10	36
Metal perforated spoon, 12 in. long---	19			18
14 in. metal solid bowl spoon-----	11		4	10
10 in. wooden spoon-----	20		2	21
14 in. wooden spoon-----	8			8
4 in. spatula-----	8		1	12
14 in. turner-----	20		4	31
Other utensils-----	2		1	13



